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TERROR TALES

OCT. 1977

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THE DEAD LIVE!

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the DEVIL'S MONSTER

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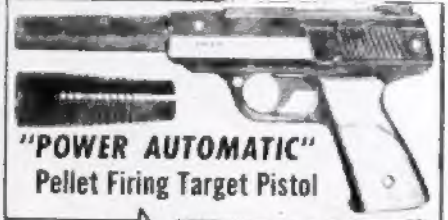

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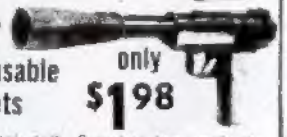

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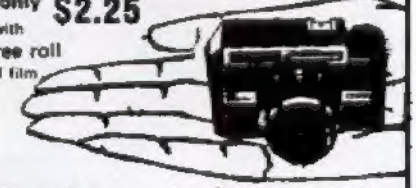

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TERROR TALES

VOL. 8 NO. 3

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VAMPIRE

FLY, UGLY WINGED CREATURE, AND SCARE GILDA! SHE SWORE IF SHE SAW ANOTHER BAT IN THIS OLD PLACE, SHE'D QUIT! LET'S SEE IF SHE MEANT IT!

MUST WE GO OVER THESE LINES AGAIN? MY NERVES ARE SHOT!

FREQUENTLY, IN THE WORLD OF THE THEATRE, GROTESQUE REAL-LIFE DRAMA GOES ON BEHIND THE WINGS! IT WAS THAT WAY AT THE OLD MILL SUMMER THEATRE, WHERE AN UNDERSTUDY, NAMED INEZ FANE PLOTTED TO GET RID OF THE STAR, GILDA GILLETTE, SO THAT SHE, INEZ, COULD PROVE HER ART BEFORE AN OPENING NIGHT AUDIENCE OF CRITICS!

WELL, INEZ FANE, THIS LOOKS LIKE YOUR BIG CHANCE TO TAKE OVER THE STARRING ROLE, TONIGHT!
THANK YOU, SIR! I'M PREPARED!

T-THE BAT, I'LL THROW IT OUTSIDE FOR YOU, JACK! I'M NOT AFRAID OF IT!
THANKS, MISS FANE! I CAN'T IMAGINE WHERE IT CAME FROM! I KNOW THERE WASN'T A BAT LEFT IN THIS THEATRE THIS MORNING!

MY HOROSCOPE FORETOLD THAT THIS WOULD BE MY LUCKY DAY! I OUGHT TO KEEP THE BAT AS A GOOD LUCK TALISMAN!

I'LL HAVE THE BAT STUFFED AND MOUNTED AND KEEP IT IN MY DRESSING ROOM, WITH MY OTHER GOOD LUCK CHARMS!

SOON...
AN UNUSUAL SPECIMEN! WHERE DID THIS BAT COME FROM, MISS FANE?
WHY, I-I-- WELL, ONE OF THE MEN IN THE THEATRE KILLED IT! WHY?

THIS IS A VAMPIRE BAT, USUALLY FOUND ONLY IN SOUTH AMERICA! LOOK, THOSE SHARP TEETH, USED TO PUNCTURE THE VEINS OF ITS VICTIM AND DRAW OUT THE BLOOD!

UGGGHH! I'VE CHANGED MY MIND ABOUT HAVING THE HORRID CREATURE STUFFED!
AS YOU WISH! MAYBE THERE'S SOME TRUTH IN THE LEGEND THAT ONE HUNDRED YEARS AGO, THE MILL OWNER'S WIFE WAS EXECUTED FOR SUPPOSEDLY BEING A HUMAN VAMPIRE!

SHE WAS BURIED IN THAT CEMETERY RIGHT NEAR THE THEATRE!
WHY, THAT'S WHERE I CAUGHT THAT BAT!
LOOK OUT! THE BAT'S COME ALIVE!

LOOK OUT! IT'S GOING FOR YOUR THROAT!
IT'S TAKING MY LUCKY CHARM NECKLACE!

IT GOT AWAY! I'LL BUY YOU ANOTHER NECKLACE, IF YOU'LL PERMIT ME, MISS FANE!
THAT'S SWEET OF YOU, BUT THAT NECKLACE WAS A VERY LUCKY ONE! I'LL GET IT BACK SOME WAY!

AFTER SHE LEFT THE TAXIDERMIST'S SHOP...
I CAN'T CHANCE HAVING BAD LUCK IN TONIGHT'S PERFORMANCE! I MUST GET THAT NECKLACE BACK! I FOUND THAT BAT IN THAT OLD BROKEN-DOWN MAUSOLEUM! PERHAPS IT RETURNED HERE!

I MUSTN'T THINK ABOUT THAT RIDICULOUS LOCAL LEGEND THAT THE WOMAN BURIED HERE WAS SUPPOSED TO BE A VAMPIRE!

I WAS RIGHT! THE BAT DID RETURN TO ITS HOME! WOW, IF I CAN JUST GET THAT NECKLACE FROM AROUND ITS NECK!

AS INEZ REACHES FOR THE NECKLACE, A SWIFT TRANSFORMATION CAME OVER THE BAT...
A-A HUMAN VAMPIRE! EEEEY!!!EEE!
YES, MY DEAR! I AM OLGA MAZUR, THE MILL OWNER'S WIFE! BUT DON'T BE AFRAID! I WON'T HARM YOU!

YOUR SOFT, WHITE THROAT IS A GREAT TEMPTATION! BUT I MUST CONTROL MY NEED FOR YOUR BLOOD!
NO! NO! LEAVE ME ALONE, KEEP THE NECKLACE! I DON'T WANT IT!

WHEN YOU PREVENTED THE STAGE HAND FROM DESTROYING ME, YOU SAVED MY LIFE! ACCORDING TO THE VAMPIRE LEGEND YOUR VISIT HERE TRANSFORMED ME INTO A HUMAN VAMPIRE!

I STOLE YOUR NECKLACE TO MAKE SURE YOU WOULD COME HERE!
WH-WHAT DO YOU WANT WITH ME NOW?

IN ORDER TO RETAIN THIS HUMAN VAMPIRE FORM, I MUST MAKE YOU ONE OF US!
OH, NO! DON'T TOUCH ME! OOOOHH!

LATER...
I-I MUST'VE FAINTED! AND HAD SOME WILD DREAM ABOUT A VAMPIRE!

MY WRIST HURTS! OOOH! PERHAPS IT WASN'T A DREAM! TWO PUNCTURES OVER MY MAIN ARTERY! MAYBE THERE WAS SUCH A CREATURE, AND IT BIT ME, TO MAKE ME LIKE HER, AS SHE SAID!

NO! I JUST FEEL UPSET! THERE WAS A BAT! IT DID BITE MY WRIST WHEN I TRIED TO GET MY NECKLACE, AND I FAINTED! THAT ALL!

LATER, AT THE THEATRE, JUST BEFORE THE PERFORMANCE...
MISS FANE, HAVE YOU HEARD THE NEWS? ED FOREMAN WAS FOUND MURDERED A LITTLE WHILE AGO! THEY SAY HE WAS THE VICTIM OF A VAMPIRE!
NO! NO! THAT'S IMPOSSIBLE!
THERE WERE TEETH MARKS AT HIS THROAT, AND EVERY LAST DROP OF BLOOD WAS DRAINED FROM THE YOUTH'S BODY!
IF YOU'D HEARD THE TALE OF THE VAMPIRE WIFE OF THE MAN WHO USED TO OWN THIS OLD MILL, YOU'D BELIEVE! ESPECIALLY SINCE A GROUP OF ANGRY TOWNSMEN WENT TO HER GRAVE, AND FOUND IT EMPTY, AND HER REMAINS WERE GONE!

INEZ FANE TRIED TO TELL HERSELF THERE WAS SOME OTHER EXPLANATION TO THE KILLING! BUT, LATER, DURING THE OPENING NIGHT PERFORMANCE!
BUT, AUBREY, I CANNOT MARRY YOU! I...
IT'S OLGA MAZUR, THE VAMPIRE! SHE'S RIGHT THERE IN THE AUDIENCE!
HER EYES! THEY SEEM TO TRANSFIX ME! I NO LONGER FEEL NERVOUS! I FEEL FILLED WITH A... A GREAT DRAMATIC POWER THAT I'VE NEVER FELT BEFORE!

INEZ FANE'S PERFORMANCE WAS SO FIERY, INSPIRED, THAT AS THE CURTAIN DESCENDED, THUNDEROUS APPLAUSE SHOOK THE THEATRE!
THANK YOU! THANK YOU!
BRAVO!
MISS FANE, I HAD TO BE THE FIRST TO GET TO YOU! I'M GREGORY VOSS, OF HALCYON FILMS! I HAVE A MOVIE CONTRACT YOU CAN'T RESIST!
COME IN, MR. VOSS! I-I'M SO EXCITED, I CAN HARDLY BELIEVE ANY OF THIS IS HAPPENING!

LATER...
A MOVIE CONTRACT, SIGNED AND SEALED! I'LL BE RICH, FAMOUS!

SUDDENLY...
INEZ, YOU WERE INDEED, SUPERB! WE HAVE A GREAT FUTURE AHEAD OF US! BUT NOW IT IS TIME FOR OTHER THINGS!
YOU! WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT!

YOU SEE, WE VAMPIRES, ONCE WE'VE CLAIMED A VICTIM AND SATED OUR MAD CRAVINGS RETURN TO HUMAN FORM, FOR A WHILE! BUT WHEN THAT INHUMAN THRUST RETURNS AGAIN, WE...
YOU'RE CHANGING RIGHT NOW!

YOU FORGET, INEZ, THAT I MADE YOU ONE OF US! YOU TOO, NOW HAVE THE TAINTED BLOOD COURSING THROUGH YOUR VEINS! SEE! EVEN NOW, YOU ARE ALSO CHANGING!
YES! AND I FEEL WEIRD, UNFAMILIAR URGES PULSING THROUGH ME!

THEN, LIKE A PAIR OF HELLISH NIGHT BIRDS, THEY SOUGHT OUT VICTIMS!
THERE! BELOW! ONE FOR EACH OF US!
YES! LET US HURRY! I AM GOING MAD WITH THIRST!

WHAT-- AARRRGGH!
DRINK DEEPLY, SISTER INEZ!

A LITTLE LATER, THEIR BLOOD-LUST SATED, BOTH WOMEN RETURNED TO HUMAN FORM, AND...
NOW THAT I'M NORMAL AGAIN, I CAN'T STAND THE THOUGHT OF WHAT I'VE DONE! IF I CAN ESCAPE HER, PERHAPS IT WILL NEVER HAPPEN AGAIN!
HA! HA! THERE IS NO ESCAPE FOR YOU NOW!

FOR THE NEXT WEEK, INEZ FANE SAW NOTHING OF HER VAMPIRE PARTNER! THEN, AFTER ARRIVING IN HOLLYWOOD...
YOU! I-- I THOUGHT I WAS FREE!
IT IS TIME AGAIN! YOU ARE ABOUT READY TO SOAR FORTH WITH ME ONCE AGAIN!
IT IS TRUE! I-I CAN FEEL THE CHANGE COMING OVER ME! AND NOW I'M GLAD! THIS TIME, MY BLACK-WINGED PARTNER, I WILL LEAD THE WAY IN A SEARCH FOR NEW VICTIMS!
THEN, MOMENTS LATER...
I TOLD YOU I HEARD SCREAMS FROM THIS PARK! WHAT'S GOING ON HERE?
FLEE, INEZ! IT WILL BE SAFER TO LOOK FOR OTHER VICTIMS!
THOSE CURSED BULLETS! MY WINGS ARE PIERCED, TORN! MY FLYING POWER IS WEAKENED
FLY OVER THE CROWDS AT THAT PREMIERE! THE POLICE WON'T BE ABLE TO MAKE THEIR WAY THROUGH THE MOB!
BUT, SUDDENLY...
HER WINGS WERE TORN BADLY! SHE'S BEEN BLINDED BY THE BLAZING LIGHTS! SHE SWOOPED RIGHT INTO ONE OF THEM!
AAAIIYEEE! WITH OLGA'S DEATH, I'M CHANGING BACK TO HUMAN FORM, IN MIDAIR! I'M FALLING...
AND SO, INEZ FANE, WHO SOLD HER SOLE TO BECOME A GREAT STAR, PLAYED A FINAL SENSATIONAL ROLE UNDER BLINDING LIGHTS AND GRINDING NEWS CAMERAS, BEFORE A HUSHED HORRIFIED AUDIENCE OF THOUSANDS!
The End

THE HOUSE THAT DRIPPED BLOOD

IT STARTED WITH A SIMPLE LITTLE QUARREL AND ENDED IN FEAR AND HORROR! THE OLD HOUSE MIGHT HAVE BEEN WAITING TO POUNCE, LIKE SOME PREHISTORIC MONSTER, ON THE ILL-FATED COUPLE! SO IF IT'S THRILLS AND CHILLS YOU WANT, IF YOUR BLOOD NEEDS CURDLING, READ ON, IF YOU DARE! FOR THIS IS THE STORY OF **THE MURDEROUS JOKE...**

SUE AND JOHN TRENT ARE HAVING A VIOLENT QUARREL...

I HATE YOU! I REALLY DO! YOU'RE STUBBORN AND, OH, I JUST SIMPLY HATE YOU!

YOU'RE NO BARGAIN, YOU KNOW! WHY DON'T YOU GO HOME TO MOTHER AS YOU'RE ALWAYS THREATENING TO DO!

A FEW MINUTES LATER...

MOTHER, THIS IS SUE! I'VE HAD A QUARREL WITH JOHN! I HATE HIM! I'M COMING FOR A VISIT WITH YOU!

SWELL WITH ME! I'LL EVEN DRIVE YOU!

BUT WHEN SUE GOES TO PACK...
HELLO, MORRIS... JOHN TRENT. I WANT A FAVOR. I'VE HAD A FIGHT WITH SUE AND I WANT TO TEACH HER A LESSON. YOU KNOW THE HAUNTED HOUSE ON SPRING ROAD, WELL...
HA HA! SOUNDS LIKE A GOOD IDEA, JOHN. GLAD TO DO IT! WE'LL GIVE HER A GOOD SCARE. SEE YOU THERE!
HA HA. JOHN SURE HAS A SENSE OF HUMOR. THIS WILL MAKE HIM LOOK LIKE A HERO. NOW IF I CAN BE A CONVINCING HOST.
LATER THAT NIGHT AS JOHN DRIVES SUE TO HER MOTHERS HOUSE...
JOHN, WHY ARE WE GOING THIS WAY? YOU'VE NEVER TAKEN THIS ROAD BEFORE.
IT'S A SHORT CUT, THAT'S WHY. I WANT TO GET RID OF YOU AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.
BUT ACCORDING TO PLAN... JOHN FINDS SOMETHING WRONG WITH THE CAR...
NOW WHAT? BLAST IT. IT MUST BE THAT NEW IGNITION COIL. LISTEN TO IT SPUTTER.
THIS IS FINE. A MILLION MILES FROM NOWHERE AND THE CAR STALLS.
THE CAR GLIDES TO A HALT BEFORE A DESERTED OLD MANSION THAT HAS THE REPUTATION OF BEING HAUNTED...
COME ON, IT'S STARTING TO RAIN. WE CAN TAKE COVER IN HERE.
I D-DON'T KNOW. YOU KNOW THE STORIES ABOUT THIS OLD HOUSE. WASN'T THERE A MURDER HERE?

CARRYING OUT HIS PLAN TO TEACH SUE A LESSON, JOHN TRENT PUSHES OPEN THE CREAKING DOOR...
YES, I THINK A MURDER WAS COMMITTED HERE! SO WHAT? YOU BELIEVE IN GHOSTS?
I-I DON'T KNOW! I JUST KNOW THAT I DON'T LIKE IT HERE!
SUDDENLY..
WHOOOEE
JOHN, LISTEN! W-WHAT WAS THAT?
HUH! I DON'T KNOW!
AS HE HAD EXPECTED, HIS WIFE LEAPS INTO HIS ARMS IN FEAR.
HA HA! MORRIS IS DOING A FINE JOB! THAT GROAN SOUNDED GHASTLY!
DON'T WORRY! PROBABLY ONLY THE WIND!
HOW COULD THAT HORRIBLE SOUND BE THE WIND? THERE ISN'T ANY WIND!
OOOOHHHH
JOHN! WHERE ARE YOU GOING? DON'T YOU DARE LEAVE ME ALONE!
I'M GOING UPSTAIRS! I'M NOT AFRAID OF GHOSTS EVEN IF YOU ARE, BUT I'M CURIOUS!
THE SCHEME IS WORKING! SUE FORGETS ABOUT GOING HOME TO MOTHER! SHE IS VERY IMPRESSED WITH JOHN'S COURAGE...
JOHN, YOU'RE SO BRAVE, AND I'M SCARED TO DEATH!
DON'T WORRY, SWEETHEART, I WON'T LET ANYTHING HAPPEN TO YOU!
AS THE REACH THE TOR OF THE STAIRS...
LOOK! A MAN'S LEGS STICKING OUT THAT DOOR! HE LOOKS D-DEAD!
GREAT SCOTT I DIDN'T COUNT ON THIS!
THE BODY IS THAT OF MORRIS, JOHN'S FRIEND.
JOHN, THAT'S MORRIS SLATTERY, BUT HOW.
I DON'T KNOW! BUT IT IS MORRIS, AND HE IS DEAD!

SUE BEGINS TO SUSPECT SOMETHING FISHY..
WHAT'S GOING ON, JOHN TRENT? WHAT WAS MORRIS DOING HERE? WAS THIS SOME KIND OF A JOKE?
Y-YES! B-BUT IT'S NO JOKE NOW! WE'VE GOT TO CALL THE POLICE!
WE WANTED TO SCARE YOU, DEAR! TO KEEP YOU FROM LEAVING ME! YOU KNOW HOW MUCH I REALLY LOVE YOU! BUT WHO COULD HAVE KILLED HIM?
SUDDENLY, FROM BEHIND THEM, THERE IS A TERRIBLE CACKLING LAUGH...
JOHN! LOOK OUT! THAT OLD WOMAN.
HUH! WHO ARE YOU? WHAT ARE YOU DOING WITH THAT AXE?
HEH-HEH-HEH! YOU'LL FIND OUT SOON ENOUGH!
I KILLED YOUR FRIEND AND I'M GOING TO KILL YOU! JUST THE WAY I KILLED THE OTHERS!
SUE, TERRIFIED OUT OF HER WITS, RUNS FOR THE DOOR.
JOHN! RUN... RUN! SHE'S INSANE!
SAVE YOURSELF! I'LL HOLD HER UNTIL YOU GET TO THE CAR! THEN I'LL JOIN YOU!
BUT SUE SLIPS ON THE CRUMBLING OLD STAIRS..
EEEEEEK. FALLING!

AND GOES CRASHING DOWN AS A HORRIBLE SCREAM RINGS OUT FROM THE ROOM ABOVE...
OH, NO, PLEASE YAAAAA-
THERE IS A SNAPPING SOUND AS THE WOMAN'S FRAGILE NECK IS BROKEN...
HEH-HEH... THOUGHT YOU COULD GET AWAY, DID YOU!
A TERRIBLE SILENCE DESCENDS ON THE OLD HOUSE, WHILE IN THE GORY ROOM ABOVE...
HEE-HEE-- DEAD AS A DOORNAIL! I CHOPPED HIM UP JUST LIKE, THE OTHERS.
THERE IS A SUDDEN WAIL OF SIRENS IN THE NIGHT, AND OUTSIDE...
HO-HO! THE POLICE AFTER ME AGAIN! THEY ALWAYS KNOW WHERE TO LOOK, CURSE THEM!
CAREFUL BOYS, YOU KNOW HOW CRAZY SHE IS!
EASY NOW, GRANNY! GIVE ME THAT AXE!
COME ALONG NOW, YOU KNOW YOU HAVE TO GO BACK TO THE ASYLUM!
TAKE YOUR FILTHY HANDS OFF ME!
LATER AFTER THE BODIES HAVE BEEN TAKEN TO THE MORGUE AND THE OLD WOMAN RETURNED TO THE LUNATIC ASYLUM..
WHAT ON EARTH WERE THOSE PEOPLE DOING IN THAT OLD HOUSE?
WE'LL NEVER KNOW! BUT THE OLD LADY, THAT'S DIFFERENT! SHE GOES THERE EVERY TIME SHE ESCAPES FROM THE ASYLUM!
POLICE
SHE MURDERED HER HUSBAND THERE YEARS AGO, THEN WENT INSANE! SHE STILL THINKS HER HUSBAND IS ALIVE AND LIVING IN THAT HOUSE! SHE ALWAYS GOES BACK TO KILL HIM! IF OTHER PEOPLE GET IN THE WAY, WELL...
THE END

THE LEGITIMATE THEATRE IS A STRANGE WORLD, BUT NO STRANGER THAN THE MAKE-UP MAN WHO MADE A PACT WITH THE VERY DEVIL HIMSELF! AND THEN SOUGHT VENGEANCE ONLY TO PAY SATAN'S PRICE!
MY FACE! WHAT'S HAPPENING TO MY FACE! AIIEEEE!
THE CORPSE
AT A COCKTAIL PARTY AFTER A SUCCESSFUL OPENING NIGHT!
YES, I HEARD THAT KARL RAGEESE HAD DIED IN THE POOR HOUSE!
IT'S STRANGE THAT HE MENTIONED THE THREE OF US IN HIS WILL AND SUMMONED US TO HIS FUNERAL! WE HAVEN'T SEEN HIM FOR YEARS!
GET OFF IT! YOU KNOW HE ALWAYS ACCUSED US OF HAVING BEEN THE CAUSE OF HIS DOWNFALL!

THE NEXT DAY....
PECULIAR THAT WE WERE THE ONLY THREE INVITED TO THE BURIAL! WHAT DO YOU MAKE OF IT?
FRANKLY, I DON'T CARE! LET'S GET AWAY FROM HERE! WE ALL HAVE MATINEES TO DO TODAY!
RIP

BUT LATER THAT EVENING A WEIRD EVENT TRANSPIRES!

SO, THEY THINK THEY'VE SEEN THE LAST OF ME, EH!.. ..SATAN AND ME HAVE MADE A PACT! HE HE HAW!

WITH A NEW BODY AND FACE AND HYPNOTIC POWERS I'LL HAVE MY REVENGE!

...ON THE THREE OF THEM! THEY WHO WERE RESPONSIBLE FOR DRIVING THE GENIUS KARL RAGEESE TO THE POOR-HOUSE WITH THEIR LIES!

THE FOLLOWING EVENING...
ISN'T THAT MAKE-UP MAN HERE YET?
THERE'S A NEW MAN TONIGHT, MISS JAN! I'LL SEND HIM RIGHT IN!

YOU SHALL BE THE MOST BEAUTIFUL JULIET IN THE HISTORY OF THE THEATRE!
I ALWAYS HAVE BEEN!

JAN SLOAN PERFORMS AS USUAL, BUT AFTER THE FINAL CURTAIN....

YOU WERE WONDERFUL AS USUAL, MISS JAN!

THANK YOU, DEAR! BUT I....I DON'T KNOW....I FELT SO STRANGE OUT THERE TONIGHT!

DURING THE DEATH SCENE, I....I ALMOST THOUGHT OF ACTUALLY STABBING MYSELF!

YOU'RE JUST TIRED, MISS JAN!

SHE WAS PROBABLY RIGHT! BUT AS LONG AS I'M HERE I MIGHT AS WELL GO OVER THAT DEATH SCENE AGAIN! IT'S NOT EASY!

"....AND SO I TAKE MY LIFE THUSLY...." ***A!EEE!*** THE KNIFE IS....

AGGRRAAHH!

AND AS THE KNIFE, SEEMINGLY CONTROLLED BY AN INVISIBLE FORCE, PLUNGES INTO JAN SLOAN'S BODY.... A FANTASTIC FACIAL TRANSFORMATION OCCURS! AND EVEN HER FINAL PERFORMANCE HAS AN AUDIENCE!

DEAD! HA! HA! GOODNIGHT, JULIET!

AT ANOTHER BROADWAY THEATER THE NEXT DAY...

AUTOGRAPH PLEASE, MR. LEEDS!

FINE! BUT THIS IS ALL! I GO ON IN FIFTEEN MINUTES, YOU KNOW!

LESTER LEEDS

DON'T THEY KNOW THE CURTAIN RISES IN TEN MINUTES! WHERE'S MY MAKE-UP MAN, JARVIS?

I'LL SEE, SIR!

HERE I AM, MR. LEEDS!

HURRY, MAN! THERE'S LITTLE TIME! IT WOULD BE A FINE THING IF HAMLET WERE LATE!

I'VE ALWAYS ADMIRED YOUR PORTRAYAL OF HAMLET!

YOU SHOULD, IT'S THE BEST! I HOPE YOU'RE ALMOST FINISHED!

HIS MAKE-UP COMPLETE, LESTER LEEDS RENDERS HIS VERSION OF SHAKESPEARE'S HAMLET!

"TO BE OR NOT TO BE.....THAT IS THE QUESTION!"

SIR, YOU WERE SUPERB!

THANK YOU, JARVIS... BUT I...I FELT ODD OUT THERE...THAT SCENE WHEN I'M KILLED BY A POISONOUS KNICK OF A KNIFE...I FELT AS THOUGH IT WOULD HAPPEN!

IT'S JUST YOUR NERVES, SIR! WHY NOT RELAX A BIT?

YOU'RE PROBABLY RIGHT! I'LL READ SOME OF MY FAN MAIL! GOODNIGHT, JARVIS!

BUT AS LESTER READS HIS MAIL, A FANTASTIC COINCIDENCE OCCURS...
DRAT IT! I KNICKED MY FINGER WITH THIS LETTER OPENER! I NEVER.....I....
AND A GROTESQUE SCENE ENSUES!
THE FINGER IS.... WHAT---! MY FACE! WHAT'S HAPPENING TO MY FACE?
A!!!EEEE!
AGGRRAAHH!
SPLENDID! DIE, LEEDS, DIE!
TWO OF THE THREE WITNESSES SUMMONED TO KARL RAGEESE'S FUNERAL HAVE DIED HIDEOUSLY! AND AT A NEARBY THEATER THAT NIGHT....THE THIRD, JO CARTER, PREPARES FOR HER APPEARANCE AS JOAN OF ARC!
I'M READY FOR MY MAKE-UP, DORIS! CALL IN THE NEW MAN!
YES, M'AM!
HERE I AM, MISS CARTER!
GOOD! LET'S GET TO WORK ON THIS!
THE ARTIST BEGINS HIS FIENDISH WORK!
YOU WILL BE THE MOST BEAUTIFUL JOAN OF ARC EVER!
THANKS, I INTEND TO BE!

YOU'VE DONE A GOOD JOB! YOU MAY LEAVE NOW! I GO ON IN THREE MINUTES!
I'M FINISHED, MISS CARTER! THANK YOU!
THE AUDIENCE IS SPELL-BOUND AS JO CARTER ENACTS HER JOAN OF ARC!
"BUT I HEAR DIVINE VOICES, I TELL YOU!"
AFTER THE PERFORMANCE....
I...I DON'T KNOW WHAT IT IS, DORIS! BUT TONIGHT THAT ARTIFICIAL FIRE FELT LIKE IT WOULD REALLY BURN ME ALIVE!
YOU'RE JUST FATIGUED, M'AM!
YOUR AUTOGRAPH, MISS CARTER!
I'M VERY SORRY, BUT NOT TONIGHT! I'M VERY TIRED!
DORIS WAS RIGHT! MY ROLE OF JOAN OF ARC IS AN EXHAUSTING ONE!
ARRIVING AT HER LAVISH APARTMENT, THE BEAUTIFUL ACTRESS PREPARES FOR A RESTFUL EVENING!
WHEN THEY TIE ME TO THAT STAKE, I THINK THAT FIRE WILL--- WHA---

AND AS JO'S APARTMENT BECOMES A RAGING INFERNO, HER ANGUISHED FEATURES BECOME THOSE OF HER JOAN OF ARC! AND A WARPED ARTIST ADMIRES HIS HANDIWORK!

OH WELL, THERE ARE TIMES, WHEN EVEN SATAN CHANGES HIS MIND.... BESIDES, WHO WOULD BELIEVE THE DEVIL WAS FOND OF SHAKESPEARE? ...AND RESENTED THE DEATH OF THREE TALENTED PEOPLE?

THE END

A STRANGE AND TERRIBLE STORY WAS TOLD TO YOUNG BOB RANCE IN THE LONELY, SNOW-BOUND RAILROAD STATION! AND WHEN THE ENDING CAME, RANCE FOUND HIMSELF THE CHIEF ACTOR IN THE **BLOOD CHILLING** CLIMAX TO THE TALE OF...

THE DEVIL'S MONSTER

QUITE A STORY YOU'VE TOLD ME... LUCKY WE'RE NOT MIXED UP IN IT! WHA--?

LOOK! HELP! HELP!

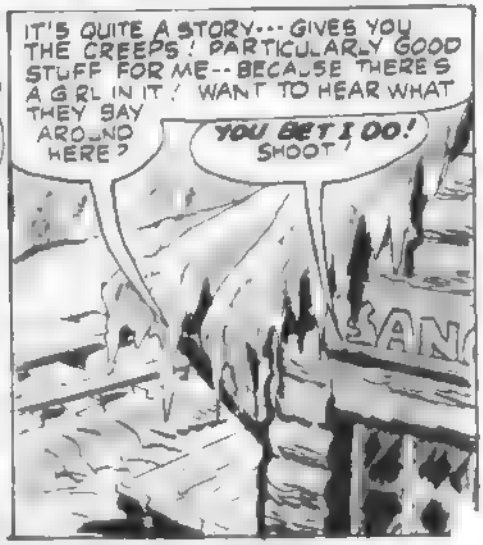
I'M A REPORTER FOR THE DAILY ARGUS! WE'VE HEARD THERE'S SOME WEIRD KIND OF BEAST ROAMING AROUND HERE! A THING THAT LOOKS LIKE A MAN!
WHY... OH, YES.. I'VE HEARD THAT!

HE KILLS PEOPLE AND EATS THEIR FLESH! AT LEAST THAT'S WHAT WE'VE HEARD!
YES! PEOPLE ARE MISSING HERE! GUESS THAT'S WHAT HAPPENED!

"HE ROAMS BY NIGHT, THEY SAY! I DON'T GUESS ANYONE GOT CLOSE TO HIM AND LIVED."

"SO MY PAPER SENT ME UP TO GET THE DOPE ON THIS...!"

WELL, WE'RE BOTH IN THE SAME BOAT.. I WRITE MAGAZINE STORIES! I CAME UP HERE A FEW DAYS AGO! AND I SURE FOUND OUT PLENTY!


IT'S QUITE A STORY... GIVES YOU THE CREEPS! PARTICULARLY GOOD STUFF FOR ME -- BECAUSE THERE'S A GIRL IN IT! WANT TO HEAR WHAT THEY SAY AROUND HERE?
YOU BET I DO! SHOOT!

THERE WAS A FELLOW, THEY SAY NAMED GEORGE BRUNO HE HAD PLENTY OF MONEY. TRAVELED A LOT' A YEAR OR SO AGO, HE WAS IN HARTA-- A SMALL CARIBBEAN ISLAND... AND--

--THIS GEORGE BRUNO WAS A STRANGE, BROODING SORT--HE HAD ALWAYS BEEN INTERESTED IN THE SUPERNATURAL--"
NO WHITE MAN IS ALLOWED TO SEE THE SACRED VOODOO RITUAL-- I'LL DISGUISE MYSELF.

"IN THE HOT TROPIC NIGHT, HE FURTIVELY FOLLOWED THE SOUNDS OF THE DISTANT DRUMS ---"
...CAN'T BE FAR NOW! JUST DOWN THAT HILL!

"THE WEIRD DRUMS SOUNDED WITH THE RHYTHM OF A WILD, PAGAN DANCE' AND..."

"THEN THE STRANGE MYSTERIOUS RITUAL! NO WHITE MAN COULD EVER HOPE TO UNDERSTAND IT' GEORGE BRUNO STOOD AWED, WATCHING--"
NOW FOR THE POTION TO TRANSFORM THEM!

DRINK! AYEE! GREAT AND NOBLE SPIRITS OF THE DARKNESS, BLESS US AS THEY DRINK THINE POTION!

"WAS THE SHIMMERING TROPIC MOONLIGHT AND THE RHYTHMIC BEATING OF THE NATIVE DRUMS TRICKING BRUNO SO THAT HE THOUGHT HE SAW...?"
ARRRRRROOOOOW!
AM I IMAGINING IT? THEY'RE GROWING AND ARE CHANGING INTO BEASTS!

"**MAN INTO BEAST!** DOWN THROUGH THE CENTURIES, IN EVERY PART OF THE WORLD DARK LEGENDS HAVE TOLD OF THIS BLACK MAGIC

THEY'RE LEAVING! UGH! HORRIBLE! HORRIBLE!

GREAT SPIRIT, HERE THERE ARE OTHERS WHO WISH TO WORSHIP YOU

YES, YES WE ARE READY!

WHAT EVIL TRICK OF FATE MADE BRUNO THINK HE WOULD LIKE TO HAVE SOME OF THAT GHASTLY DEVIL'S BREW?"

...I'LL GRAB SOME OF IT! IT'LL BE A SOUVINIR...

OH, GREAT SPIRIT... ACCEPT US INTO YOUR FLOCK... AND LET THOSE WHO DO NOT BELIEVE **BEWARE!**

"GEORGE BRUNO GOT BACK TO HIS HOTEL ROOM, AND..."

...I SURE GOT AWAY WITH IT! GUESS I BETTER THROW THAT STUFF AWAY! IT'S PROBABLY A FAKE... BUT I WOULDN'T WANT TO TEST IT!

NOT FOR A WHITE MAN, THE AWFUL SECRETS OF VOODOO! YOUNG BOB RANCE SHUDDERED AS THE GIRL TOLD HIM...

WELL! QUITE A STORY! BUT YOU SAID THERE WAS A GIRL IN IT!

THERE WAS A FOOLISH GIRL ATTRACTED TO GEORGE BRUNO BECAUSE HE WAS RICH, HANDSOME. SHE THOUGHT OF IT AS ROMANCE, I GUESS! AND DON'T FORGET HE WAS WEALTHY... THAT DIDN'T HURT!

"HER NAME WAS ELAINE CONNERS! AN ORPHAN... A STENOGRAPHER--- A LONELY GIRL, DREAMING, HOPING FOR ROMANCE! AND ONE EVENING..."

HE CERTAINLY LOOKS INTERESTING! I WISH...

"IF ONLY ELAINE CONNERS HAD BEEN A LITTLE MORE CONVENTIONAL: BUT THIS TIME SHE WASN'T! AND..."

I DON'T WISH TO OFFEND YOU-- BUT YOU LOOK LONELY-- AND SO AM I! COULDN'T I FINISH MY SUPPER HERE?

THAT WAS THE BEGINNING! IN THE END, SHE MARRIED HIM AND HE BROUGHT HER TO SARNO GULCH! HE HAD TO HAVE QUIET FOR HIS "STUDIES," HE SAID!"
HE ACTS SO QUEERLY!
GEORGE, DEAR, AREN'T YOU WELL?
OF COURSE I AM!
"THEY WERE WEALTHY, AND YET HE INSISTED ON LIVING LIKE THIS! NOW ELAINE WAS AFRAID OF HIM! THEN SHE HEARD THE VILLAGE TALES OF A ROAMING MONSTER, AND ONE MORNING---"
...HE'S GONE! WHY... WHY...?
"SHE PRETENDED TO SLEEP... BUT SUDDENLY SHE SAW..."
OHHH-H!
"SHE DIDN'T DARE QUESTION HIM... THE DAY WAS A PANIC OF HORROR..."
I'LL WATCH MY CHANCE GET OUT OF HERE--- TONIGHT!
"THEN THE TERRIFIED GIRL FLED OUT INTO THE STORM!"
...HE HAD SOME HORRIBLE POTION! HE WASN'T GOING TO TRY IT ON HIMSELF-- BUT HE DID!
"AND AT SUPPER LATER..."
I--I'VE GOT TO GO OUT FOR A WHILE THIS EVENING, ELAINE! I HAVE SOME BUSINESS! BUT I WON'T BE LATE!
...AM I IMAGINING IT? THIS FOOD TASTES QUEER!
YOU'RE GOING OUT? OH, ALL RIGHT, DEAR!
"SHE FORGOT THE QUEER TASTE OF HER FOOD! BEING LEFT ALONE GAVE HER THE CHANCE TO ESCAPE! FOR A MOMENT SHE PAUSED LOOKING THROUGH HIS PRIVATE PAPERS, AND..."
HE'S ALWAYS MAKING NOTES... HERE IT IS-- VOOOOO SECRETS!

NOW, IN THE LITTLE RAILWAY STATION, AS THE GIRL WAS TELLING IT TO RANCE.
YOU LIED TO ME! YOU'RE THAT GIRL!
YES! THAT'S WHY I HAD TO TELL YOU ALL THIS! DON'T LEAVE ME! GET ME BACK TO THE CITY!

NOW HUDDLED THERE IN THE STORM, A WILD PANIC WAS ON THEM BOTH!
WHEN HE COMES BACK AND FINDS ME GONE, HE'LL COME AFTER ME!
IF I ONLY HAD SOME KIND OF WEAPON!

THEN SUDDENLY...
ELAINE! ELAINE! HA, HA, HA!
???

WE'LL BAR THE DOORS AND WINDOWS! GOT TO HOLD OUT UNTIL THE TRAIN ARRIVES!
T--IT WON'T BE HERE FOR A HALF AN HOUR!
ELAINE! ELAINE!

ELAINE! HA, HA! ELAINE!
SEE IF THAT OTHER DOOR IS LOCKED!
OH-H! HE'S SMASHING THE ROOF!

BLAM
WHAT CAN I DO? HOW CAN I FIGHT HIM??
OH, NO!

JUST THEN, ELAINE BEGAN TO QUIVER!
OHH-- I FEEL S-SO STRANGE! SOMETHING'S THE MATTER WITH ME! P-PLEASE HELP ME!

ELAINE!! ELAINE!! COME OUT!
SAR

THINGS ARE HAPPENING TOO FAST! -- WHAT CAN I DO?
OH... PLEASE!

SH-SHE SAID HER FOOD TASTED QUEER

HELP ME!!!

OH, NO.

..HE PUT THAT STUFF IN YOUR FOOD!

YAIEEEE!
CRACK!
THE END

A STRANGE, GRUESOME OBSESSION OFTEN MANIFESTS ITSELF IN ALL AGES AND IN ALL COUNTRIES TO OBTAIN SOME RELIC OF A PERSON WHO HAS OBTAINED NOTORIETY! IN THE 17TH AND 18TH CENTURIES IN ENGLAND THERE WAS A FAD FOR COLLECTING THE HANDS OF EXECUTED CRIMINALS! THE EXECUTIONER AT NEWGATE DERIVED A MOST CONSIDERABLE REVENUE FROM THE HORRIBLE CRAZE...
I'LL GO AS HIGH AS TWENTY-FIVE GUINEAS FOR BOTH HANDS!
HE WUZ A BAD 'UN...THAT STOKES MURRY! SEEMS AS IF HANDS LIKE THEM SHOULD BRING MORE'N OTHERS!
BLOODY TEN FINGERS
AT LAST DR. PAXTON LAYNE STRUCK A BARGAIN THAT SATISFIED THE EXECUTIONER! STOKES MURRY'S HANDS WERE HIS!
HERE YOU BE, SIR! YOU'RE A LUCKY ONE!
I'M SURE OF THAT!
AS SOON AS DR. LAYNE REACHED HIS OFFICE, HE PUT THE HANDS THROUGH A PRESERVING PROCESS...
THE EXECUTIONER WAS RIGHT! WHAT A PRIZE! THE TWO HANDS OF A MAN LIKE STOKES MURRY!

THAT NIGHT...
I HAVE INVITED DOCTOR DENNIS AND LORD ORSLEY OVER TO SEE MY PRIZE!

THAT'S STRANGE! THERE ARE NO DOORS OPEN, BUT I FEEL A DRAFT!

THE NEXT MOMENT...
AAGGHHH!

DR. DENNIS AND LORD ORSLEY ARRIVED A FEW MINUTES LATER...
LOOK! IT'S PAXTON... SOMETHING'S HAPPENED TO HIM!

THESE MUST BE THE HANDS HE INVITED US TO SEE! BUT WHY SHOULD THEY BE ON THE FLOOR?
PAXTON HAS BEEN STRANGLED!

SOMEONE MIGHT HAVE BROKEN IN JUST AS PAXTON WAS LIFTING THESE HANDS OUT OF THE PRESERVING FLUID!
AND WHEN THE ROBBER HEARD US ARRIVE, HE FLED! POOR PAXTON!

MANY MILES AWAY FROM THE UNMARKED GRAVE OF AN EXECUTED CRIMINAL, A SINISTER FIGURE STRUGGLES TO THE SURFACE...
MY HANDS! WHERE ARE MY HANDS? I WILL NOT LEAVE THE EARTH UNTIL MY HANDS BELONG TO ME AGAIN!

WHILE BACK IN DR. PAXTON LAYNE'S HOME
WHAT DO YOU THINK WE SHOULD DO ABOUT THESE HANDS?
PUT THEM IN A BOX WITH PAXTON'S BELONGINGS UNTIL HIS RELATIVES DECIDE WHAT TO DO WITH THEM!
THE GRISLY BOX OF HANDS WAS PLACED IN A CHEST! WHEN DR. LAYNE'S SISTER-IN-LAW ARRIVED...
I CAN'T BOTHER LOOKING THROUGH THAT CHEST NOW! PUT IT IN THE ATTIC!
THE YEARS PASSED, AND THE CHEST WAS FORGOTTEN!
MY HANDS! I WANT MY HANDS! I CANNOT GO BACK TO THE GRAVE WITHOUT THEM!
MANY YEARS PASSED! THE 20TH CENTURY WAS USHERED IN! THE LONDON BLITZ IN WORLD WAR II DESTROYED THE OLD LAYNE HOUSE...
A YOUNG U.S. MEDICAL OFFICER, MACK DOYLE GOES THROUGH THE WRECKAGE LOOKING FOR BODIES...
ODD LOOKING BOX! MIGHT HAVE SOMETHING OF VALUE IN IT! I'LL TAKE IT ALONG!
THAT NIGHT MACK OPENED THE BOX...
A PAIR OF HUMAN HANDS! CAN YOU BEAT THAT! AND THE MOST POWERFUL-LOOKING MITTS I'VE EVER SEEN!
I'LL KEEP 'EM AS A SOUVENIR AND TAKE 'EM BACK TO AMERICA WITH ME!

WHEN HIS SERVICE WAS OVER, MACK DOYLE RETURNED TO HIS OWN COUNTRY AND HAD HIS OWN MEDICAL PRACTICE! HE KEPT THE HANDS IN THEIR BOX... BUT, ONE DAY...
HEY! WHO ARE YOU? AREN'T YOU IN THE WRONG PLACE, BUDDY?
I...WANT... MY...HANDS!
UGH! YOU LOOK LIKE SOMETHING WE USED TO DISSECT IN MEDICAL SCHOOL.. ONLY WORSE!
GIVE...ME... MY...HANDS!
I'LL GIVE YOU SOMETHING ALL RIGHT, YOU ZOMBIE! TAKE THIS!
YIIEEE!
THE SOONER I GET RID OF WHATEVER YOU ARE... THE BETTER!
MY HANDS! GIVE THEM TO ME! THEN I'LL GO!
YOU'LL GO ALL RIGHT! DOWN THIS CHUTE INTO THE INCINERATOR WHATEVER YOU ARE...
THAT SHOULD DO THE TRICK!
FOOL! YOU CANNOT KILL THE DEAD! I WILL RETURN FOR MY HANDS!

IF IT HADN'T HAPPENED TO ME, I WOULDN'T BELIEVE IT! THAT HORROR! ...I WONDER IF THESE HANDS HAD ANYTHING TO DO WITH IT? HE HAD NO HANDS!

AS MACK PULLED THE BOX FROM THE DRAWER, HIS OFFICE NURSE AND FIANCÉE CAME IN!
I'M BACK FROM LUNCH, MACK! OH...PLEASE DON'T TAKE THOSE HORRIBLE HANDS OUT! I WISH YOU'D GET RID OF THEM!

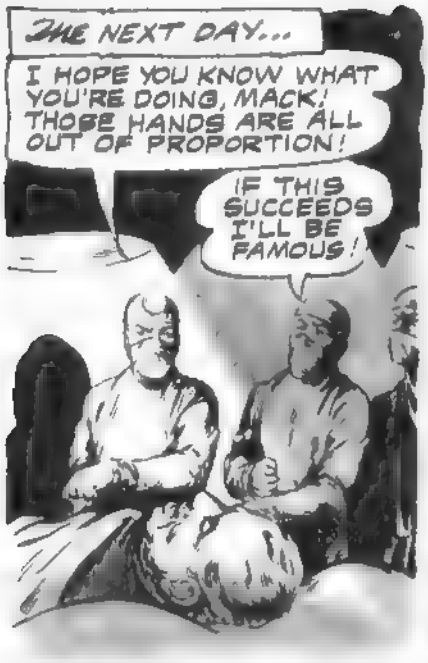
WHAT HAPPENED TO THE OFFICE?
OH, JUST A PATIENT WHO BELONGS IN A PADDED CELL! I GOT RID OF HIM!

THIS MUST BE YOUR DAY FOR STRANGE PATIENTS, DEAR... THE GREAT GOLAN IS HERE!
WHO IS HE?

A MAGICIAN! IT SEEMS HE HURT HIS HANDS BADLY IN GETTING OUT OF A PAIR OF HANDCUFFS!
SEND HIM IN!

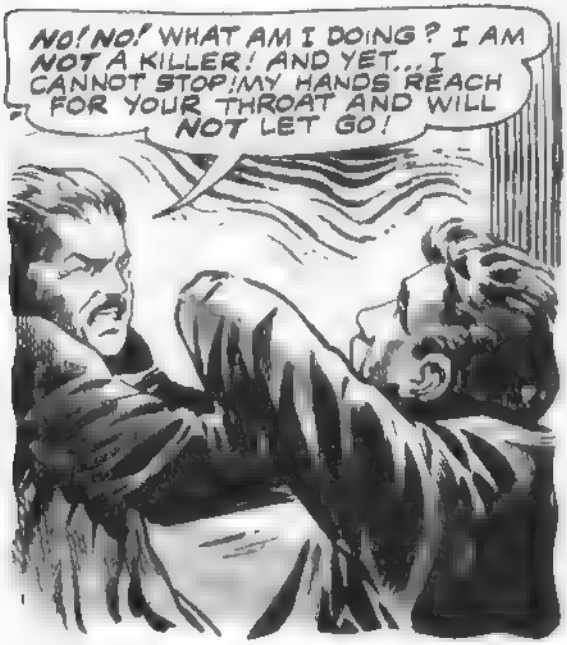
THE GREAT GOLAN TOLD MACK HIS TROUBLES...
MY DOCTOR SENT ME TO YOU! HE SAID YOU SPECIALIZED IN THESE MATTERS! MY HANDS ARE VITAL TO MY WORK!
I'LL DO WHAT I CAN, BUT IT MEANS AN OPERATION!

I DIDN'T HAVE THE HEART TO TELL THE POOR GUY HE MAY LOSE BOTH HANDS! I'VE ALWAYS WONDERED IF I COULD GRAFT ON NEW HANDS AND MAKE THEM WORK... SAY...THOSE HANDS IN THE DRAWER?


THE NEXT DAY...
I HOPE YOU KNOW WHAT YOU'RE DOING, MACK! THOSE HANDS ARE ALL OUT OF PROPORTION!
IF THIS SUCCEEDS I'LL BE FAMOUS!

A FEW WEEKS LATER...
THIS IS THE FIRST TIME THIS HAS BEEN DONE!
THESE ARE MY HANDS? OH, NO! NOT THESE MONSTROSITIES! MY HANDS WERE SUPPLE... MAGICIAN'S HANDS!

THE HANDS SEEMED TO ACT OF THEIR OWN VOLITION AS GOLAN SWUNG AT MACK!
YOU HAVE RUINED ME WITH YOUR EXPERIMENTS!
TAKE IT EASY!


NO! NO! WHAT AM I DOING? I AM NOT A KILLER! AND YET... I CANNOT STOP! MY HANDS REACH FOR YOUR THROAT AND WILL NOT LET GO!

HE'S DEAD!
MR. GOLAN! HAVE YOU LOST YOUR MIND? EEEOOWW!

AGAIN THE HANDS REACHED OUT, DRAGGING GOLAN WITH THEM...
ARRGGHH!
THE HANDS... THEY ARE THROTTLING HER! I CANNOT STOP THEM!

MY HANDS! GIVE ME MY HANDS!
AIEEEE! WHO ARE YOU? GO AWAY! AM I NOT BEING TORTURED ENOUGH?

QUICKLY, GOLAN FLED...
HELP! SAVE ME! SOMEBODY SAVE ME FROM MYSELF... AND THIS THING THAT CHASES ME!
HE KILLED DR. DOYLE AND THE NURSE! CATCH HIM!
MY HANDS! GIVE ME MY HANDS!
HELP! HELP!
GOLAN'S CRIES FOR HELP WERE IN VAIN...
EEEOOWWW!

THE BODY HIT THE STREET, WITH ARMS EXTENDED ACROSS THE STREETCAR TRACKS...

And IN A DESOLATE BURIAL GROUND IN ENGLAND A FIGURE OF STRANGE HORROR STARTED ON ITS LAST JOURNEY...
HIS ARMS WERE RIGHT ACROSS THE TRACK! THE STREETCAR COULDN'T STOP!
HE MUST HAVE BEEN DEAD AFTER THAT FALL, ANYHOW! LOOK AT THAT STRANGE GUY LEANING OVER HIM!
BY THE TIME THEY REACHED GOLAN'S BODY, THE FIGURE LEANING OVER HIM WAS GONE! THE HANDS THAT HAD BEEN CUT OFF BY THE STREETCAR WERE NEVER FOUND!
I WILL TROUBLE THE EARTH NO MORE! GOOD OR BAD, THESE HANDS WERE MINE... NOW I TAKE THEM WITH ME TO THE GRAVE!
THE END

JOHN ANDERS WAS SURE HE HAD THE ANSWER TO WHY ACCIDENTS HAPPENED TO PEOPLE--UNTIL HE SAW THE HORROR THAT EMERGED FROM THE NETHERWORLD! IT WAS THEN THAT HIS OWN LIFE HUNG IN THE BALANCE! FOR NONE WHO MET THE CREATURES EVER ESCAPED THE...
TUNNEL CRAWLERS
WE CAN'T LET YOU RETAIN OUR SECRET, JOHN ANDERS! YOU MUST DIE AS ALL THE OTHERS!
NO! NO!
BUT, WHY? WHO--WHAT CAUSES THEM? THIS INFORMATION I'VE JUST DISCOVERED WILL STUN THE ENTIRE WORLD! THINK OF IT-SOME UNKNOWN EVIL POWER IS LEAGUED AGAINST MANKIND!
JOHN ANDERS WAS THE CITY MORGUE STATISTICIAN! FOR A LONG TIME, HE HAD BEEN INTERESTED IN FATAL ACCIDENTS--AND NOW HE WAS ON TRACK OF DISCOVERY AT LAST!
HERE IT IS--THE CURVE ON THIS GRAPH! GOOD LORD! IT MEANS THAT ACCIDENTS ARE NEVER ACCIDENTAL! TOO MANY COINCIDENCES CAUSING THEM ARE DELIBERATE!

ARMED WITH HIS EARTH-SHAKING KNOWLEDGE, ANDERS KNEW TO THE SECOND WHEN AN ACCIDENT WOULD HAPPEN! HE APPROACHED THE CROWDED THOROUGHFARE AS A BIRD WOULD A SNAKE...
THAT MAN DOESN'T SEE THE TRUCK COMING!
HEY! WATCH OUT FOR THAT TRUCK!
SKREECH
ANDERS HAD CLOSED HIS EYES FOR ONE TERRIBLE SECOND--BUT HE COULD NEVER DEAFEN HIS EARS TO THE SICKENING THUD OF THE IMPACT! IT WAS THEN THAT HE SAW THE GNOME...
HEE-HEE! ANOTHER ONE!
I SAW THAT.. THAT THING PUSH THE MAN TOWARDS THE TRUCK! BUT NO ONE ELSE DID!
YAEEE
THUD
THE GNOME DISAPPEARED WITHOUT A TRACE! ANDERS WALKED TO ANOTHER PART OF TOWN, AND GRIMLY WATCHED AGAIN...
ACCORDING TO MY CALCULATIONS, A SAFE IS GOING TO FALL!
AND ANOTHER SHADOWY FORM MATERIALIZED ON TOP OF THE BUILDING...
JUST A SNIP, SNIP, SNIP-- AND IT WILL FLIP, FLIP, FLIP ON THE MORTAL'S HEAD! HA-HA!
WATCH OUT! OH, NO!

THIS TIME, ANDERS RESOLVED TO TRACE THAT EVIL CACKLING FIGURE! NIGHT HAD FALLEN! THE HE STILL PURSUED HIS QUARRY!
MINUTES LATER, HE HAD FOLLOWED THE STRANGE GNOME TOWARDS THE RAILROAD DEPOT! PEOPLE WERE NOW LOOKING AT HIM QUEERLY...
APPARENTLY IT'S INVISIBLE TO EVERYONE BUT ME!
HA-HA-HEE-HEE! BACK TO THE GROTTO FOR ME!
LET THEM LOOK! I CAN'T TELL THEM OF FINDING THE SECRET OF THE AGES!
7
CRASH
HE'S GOING INTO THAT TUNNEL! I MUSTN'T LOSE HIM!
HEE-HEE! BEHOLD! IT IS SHRUMPKIN! HO! EVERYONE OUT! HEE-HEE! TELL US WHAT HAPPENED! TELL US! HA! HA!
DOWN, DOWN--EVER DOWNWARD THAT HIDEOUS FORM TRAVELED--PAST DRIPPING, OOZING LABYRINTHS OF SLIME--PAST PLOPPING WHIRLPOOLS OF FILTH--UNTIL IT CAME TO A GROTTO-LIKE CAVE ...
CRUMKIN, FRUMKIN AND LUMKIN SHALL BE GLAD TO SEE ME TONIGHT! TWO MORE HAVE BEEN DISPOSED OF NICELY! HA! HA!

BUT AS JOHN ANDERS LOOKED ABOUT, THE THOUGHT BECAME CLEAR TO HIM THAT HERE WAS A RACE MUCH MORE ADVANCED IN THE SCIENCES THAN MAN! FOR EVERYWHERE WERE BILLIONS AND BILLIONS OF LIGHTS AND INSTRUMENTS!
WHAT IS THIS? WHERE AM I?
SHRUMPKIN WAS SUCCESSFUL! HA! HA! DANCE--DANCE--DANCE!
..GOT TO GET OUT OF HERE -- WARN OTHERS...
WAIT! I HEAR A SOUND! THERE'S SOMEONE HERE! ONE WHO ISN'T OF US!
BEHOLD! I SEE A SHADOW!
IT'S A HUMAN! HURRY-- STOP HIM! HE WILL MAKE OUR EXISTENCE KNOWN! CATCH HIM! CATCH HIM!
WE SHALL EAT WELL TONIGHT!
SHOUT ALL YOU WANT, MORTAL! NO ONE CAN HEAR YOU! WE CANNOT LET YOU TATTLE ON US! YOUR PEOPLE MAY THINK YOU DAFT— BUT THEN AGAIN-- THEY MAY NOT! WE HATE SURFACE PEOPLE!
NO! LET ME ALONE! HELP!
YAAAAA! PLEASE LET ME GO! I'LL DO ANYTHING!
I HAVE HIM!
GOOD! HE IS WELL-BUILT! HE'LL PROVIDE US WITH MANY MEALS! HA! HA!
DRAG HIM BACK TO THE GROTTO!

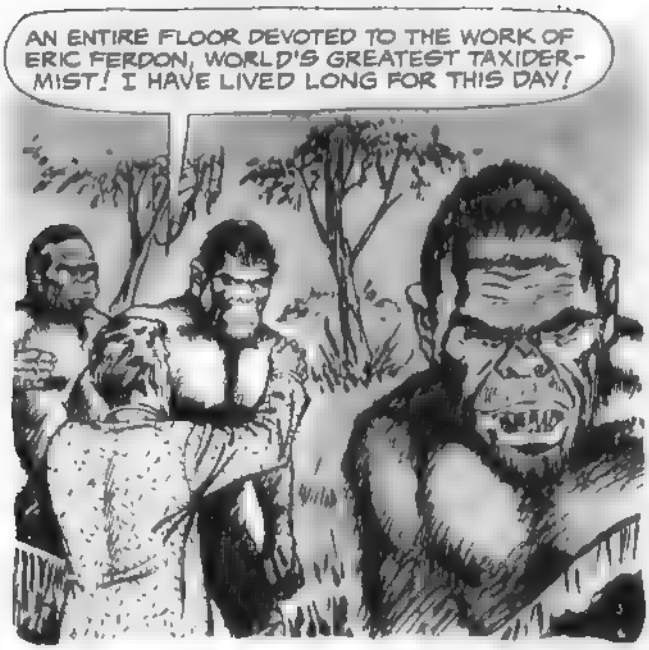
THEY PULLED AT ANDERS-- THEY SCRATCHED AT HIM--THEY CLAWED AT HIM--BUT THE DESPERATE MAN BROKE LOOSE AND RAN--RAN FOR HIS VERY LIFE!
YOU'LL NEVER CATCH ME! I'LL WIN YET! PUFF-PUFF!
GASP! I-I'VE GOT TO MAKE MY WAY BACK TO THE SURFACE--IT'S MY ONLY CHANCE!
EXIT
GET HIM. WE'D LIKE TO EAT HIM ALIVE! BUT KILL HIM IF YOU MUST!
HE IS CHEATING US OUT OF OUR DINNER! GET HIM!
TIME WAS PRECIOUS.. TIME WAS FLEETING FOR ANDERS! THE HORRIBLE HORDE WOULD BE PREPARING SOMETHING ESPECIALLY GRUESOME FOR HIM! HE HAD TO WARN THE WORLD!
THESE ARE ALL THE CHARTS. THEY MUST BELIEVE ME!
BACK THROUGH THOSE MAZE OF PASSAGEWAYS HE RAN.. TILL HE MADE HIS WAY TO THE SURFACE!
GASP! GASP! I'VE DONE IT! HA! HA! I WON... I'M FREE! WE'LL SEE IF YOU CAN STOP ME!
FREE
BUT HOURS LATER...
NOW GET OUT AND STAY OUT! THE MAYOR CAN'T BE DISTURBED BY EVERY CRACKPOT THAT COMES TO SEE HIM. "ACCIDENTS BEING DELIBERATE!" GNOMES! HA!
ALL RIGHT! I'LL HAVE TO WARN THEM SOME OTHER WAY! I'LL BUY AN AD IN THE PAPER! I'LL SPEND ALL MY SAVINGS IF I MUST!
ANDERS-- JOHN ANDERS! WE'VE COME FOR YOU!

GASP... GASP... I-- I THINK I'VE LOST THEM! THEY'LL NEVER FIND ME NOW!
HELLO, JOHN ANDERS! HELLO!
THEY RUSHED TOWARD HIM--PUSHING HIM BACK... TUGGING AT HIM, SHOVING HIM UNTIL HE LOST HIS BALANCE AND FELL INTO A MANHOLE! THAT WAS THE LAST THING HE HEARD--THE SOUND OF THEIR LAUGHTER--- THE TERRIBLE SOUND...
TAKE HIM!
GOODBYE, JOHN ANDERS! GOODBYE! HA! HA! HEE, HEE, HA!
YAAAAAAA
THE POLICE FOUND HIM LATER! SOMEONE HAD LODGED A COMPLAINT THAT THE CESSPOOL IN THEIR YARD WAS OVERFLOWING-- SOMETHING WAS CLOGGING IT!
HE MUST OF SLIPPED INTO A MANHOLE-- AND WAS WASHED DOWN HERE!
JUST ANOTHER ROTTEN ACCIDENT! OH, WELL-- CALL THE WAGON!
YES! WE CAN TAKE OUT HIS LIGHT NOW! OUR MASTER SHALL BE PLEASED WITH US!
WELL-- WE DIDN'T EAT HIM-- BUT HE IS ONE LESS!
HA HA WEE
AND UNDERGROUND IN THEIR GROTTO, THE STRANGE GNOMES CHORTLED IN GLEE! THEY KNEW THAT ANDERS COULD NEVER CONQUER THEM! THEY KEPT THE LIFE SOULS OF MAN IN THOSE LIGHTS! THEIR MASTER, YOU SEE, WAS... DEATH!!!
THE END

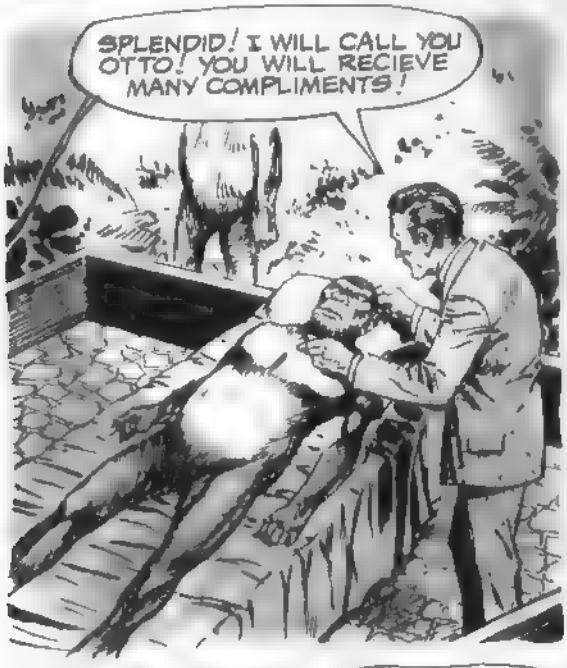
MONSTER

MIDNIGHT IN THE MUSEUM! AND WILD-EYED ERIC FERDON, TAXIDERMIST WORKS!
SOON MY GENIUS WILL BE IN DISPLAY OVER THIS ENTIRE FLOOR! THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS HAS PROMISED IT TO ME!

MAGNIFIQUE! ANOTHER SUPERB SPECIMEN! I CALL YOU FRANZ!

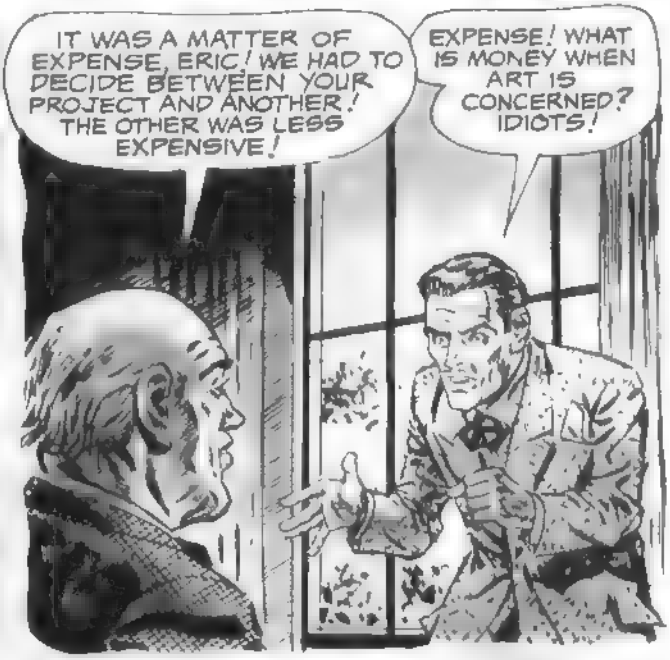

AN ENTIRE FLOOR DEVOTED TO THE WORK OF ERIC FERDON, WORLD'S GREATEST TAXIDERMIST! I HAVE LIVED LONG FOR THIS DAY!

HA-HA! MILLIONS WILL HAVE THE HONOR OF GAZING UPON MY MASTERY! AND NOTHING WILL EVER STAND IN MY WAY!


SPLENDID! I WILL CALL YOU OTTO! YOU WILL RECIEVE MANY COMPLIMENTS!

ANTICIPATING THE ACCLAIM SOON TO BE HIS, ERIC FERDON WORKS ON INTO THE NIGHT... BUT THE NEXT DAY...
MISTER KARL! IT IS AN HONOR TO HAVE YOU... A FOREMOST DIRECTOR!
WELL, ERIC... AS A MATTER OF FACT WE'D LIKE TO SEE YOU IN THE OFFICE FOR A MOMENT!

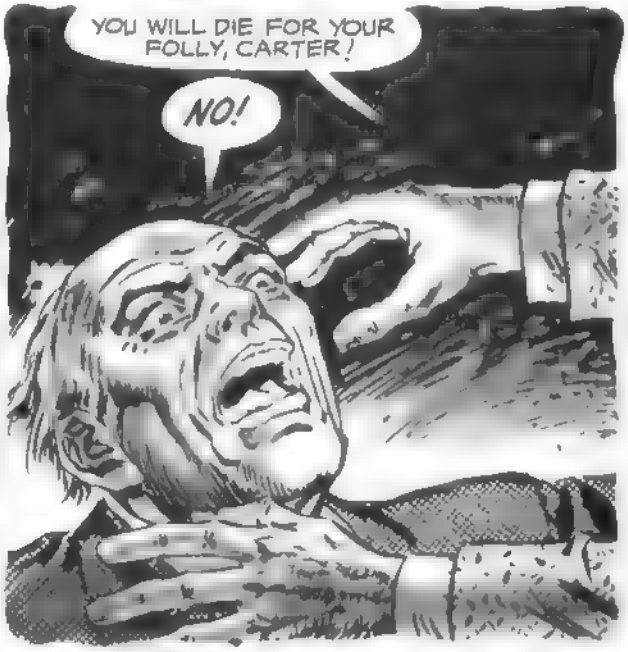
WE HATE TO DO THIS, ERIC... BUT WE'RE NOT GOING THROUGH WITH YOUR DISPLAY!
BUT YOU CAN'T STOP ME NOW!


IT WAS A MATTER OF EXPENSE, ERIC! WE HAD TO DECIDE BETWEEN YOUR PROJECT AND ANOTHER! THE OTHER WAS LESS EXPENSIVE!
EXPENSE! WHAT IS MONEY WHEN ART IS CONCERNED? IDIOTS!

SEETHING WITH RAGE, THE FRUSTRATED TAXIDERMIST STORMS OUT... PROMISING REVENGE!
STUPID MEDDLERS! YOU HAVE TURNED ON ERIC FERDON! AND YOU WILL PAY!

LATER THAT NIGHT, DISTRAUGHT AND MADDENED, FERDON CONCEIVES A FIENDISH SCHEME!
IT'S CARTER! I MUST DESTROY HIM! ONCE HE'S DEAD, MAYBE HIS REPLACEMENT WILL SEE THINGS MY WAY!

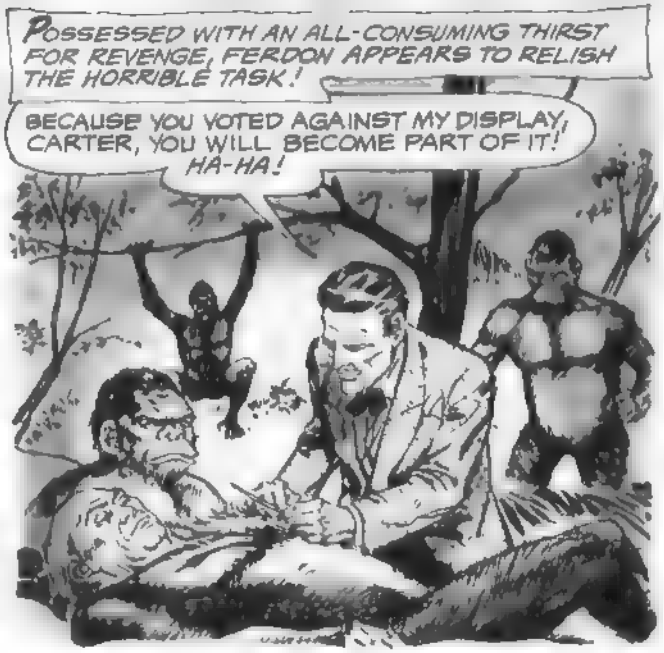
THE NEXT EVENING...
WE'RE ALONE, NOW, CARTER! JUST THE TWO OF US... HA-HA...
FERMON! YOU... YOU'RE MAD


YOU WILL DIE FOR YOUR FOLLY, CARTER!
NO!

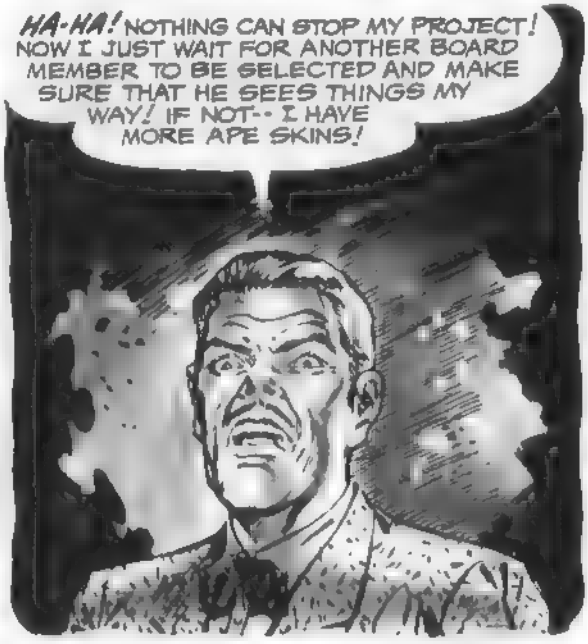
AIIIIEEEEE!
SCREAM, CARTER! ONLY MY SPECIMENS CAN HEAR YOU!

HA-HA-HA! DIE, CARTER! DIE!

WITH CARTER DEAD, THE CRAZED FERDON PLANS TO COMPLETE HIS DIABOLICAL PLAN!
YOU'RE DEAD, CARTER! AND NO ONE WILL EVER FIND YOUR BODY!


POSSESSED WITH AN ALL-CONSUMING THIRST FOR REVENGE, FERDON APPEARS TO RELISH THE HORRIBLE TASK!
BECAUSE YOU VOTED AGAINST MY DISPLAY, CARTER, YOU WILL BECOME PART OF IT! HA-HA!

YOU MAKE AN EXCELLENT GORILLA, CARTER! HA-HA-HA!


HA-HA! NOTHING CAN STOP MY PROJECT! NOW I JUST WAIT FOR ANOTHER BOARD MEMBER TO BE SELECTED AND MAKE SURE THAT HE SEES THINGS MY WAY! IF NOT-- I HAVE MORE APE SKINS!

IT CAN'T BE! NO!
BUT FERDON'S WARPED GLEE IS SHORT-LIVED... AS HE HEARS A SAVAGE GROWL BEHIND HIM! AND WHIRLING, HE SEES...

CARTER'S GHOST! NO... BUT...IT... IS!
GRRR...!

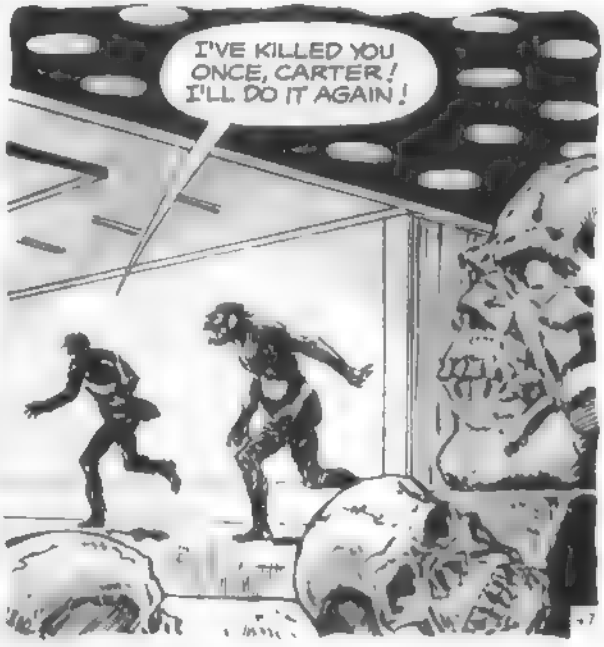
FERDON'S LUST IS TRANSFORMED INTO ABJECT HORROR AS HE FLEES BEFORE THE MONSTER'S SAVAGE CHARGE!
GRRR!
AIIIEEE! KEEP AWAY!

CARTER! GO BACK! STOP HAUNTING ME!

HIS FEAR TURNING TO MADNESS, FERDON RETREATS FRANTICALLY, BUT THE BEAST PURSUES RELENTLESSLY!
AIEEE! CARTER... PLEASE!

STOP! I SAY, STOP! DON'T COME ANY CLOSER, CARTER! YOU'RE DEAD! I KILLED YOU!

HE'S HAUNTING ME! AIIIEEEE!


I'VE KILLED YOU ONCE, CARTER! I'LL DO IT AGAIN!

BUT THE MONSTER IS NOT TO BE DENIED, AND THE MADDENED TAXIDERMIST IS FINALLY CORNERED!
TRAPPED! KEEP AWAY!
GRRR!

NOOOOO! AIEEEE!
GRRR!

WHILE AT THIS VERY MOMENT ON THE STREET...
WE'VE CHECKED EVERY BUILDING BUT THE MUSEUM, FOR THE APE THAT ESCAPED FROM THE CIRCUS!
LET'S HAVE A LOOK THERE!

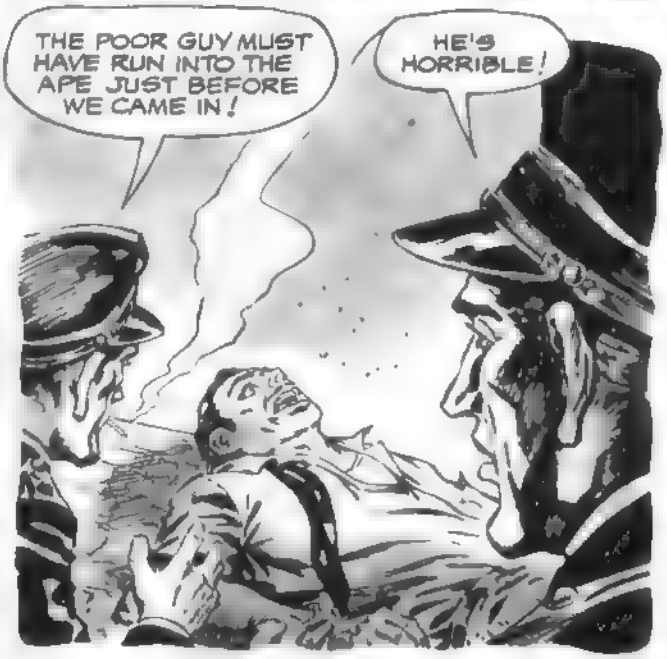
NOTHING YET!
CAREFUL! HE'S SIX HUNDRED POUNDS AND STRONG AS TEN MEN... SHOOT ON SIGHT!

THE GRIM POSSE'S SEARCH IS REWARDED!
GOT HIM!
GRRR!

C'MON... I HEARD SCREAMS BEFORE! LET'S LOOK AROUND!

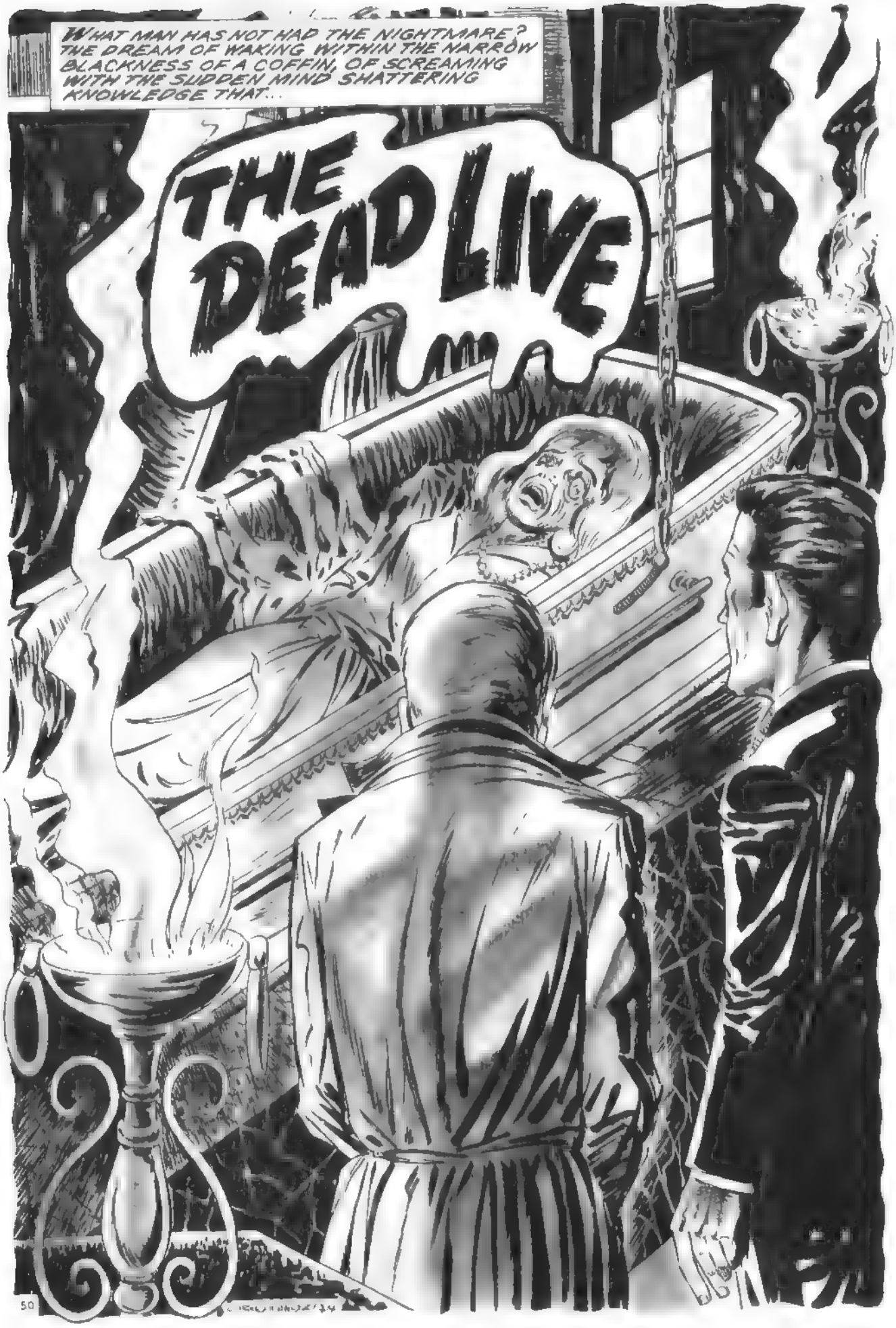
WE HAVEN'T TRIED THE APE ROOM YET!
IT SURE WOULD BE THE PLACE FOR THAT GORILLA TO HAVE GONE TO!

GOOD HEAVENS! THE GORILLA WAS HERE! LOOK!


THE POOR GUY MUST HAVE RUN INTO THE APE JUST BEFORE WE CAME IN!
HE'S HORRIBLE!

HEY, WHAT ARE YOU LOOKING SO PUZZLED ABOUT?
WELL, IT'S JUST THAT ALL PERFORMING ANIMALS HAVE THEIR TEETH PULLED AND CLAWS CLIPPED AS A SAFETY MEASURE, AND...

...AND THAT APE WE JUST KILLED HAD HIS CLAWS AND TEETH REMOVED YESTERDAY! YET THE VICTIM WAS BITTEN AND CLAWED TO DEATH!
THE END


WHAT MAN HAS NOT HAD THE NIGHTMARE? THE DREAM OF WAKING WITHIN THE NARROW BLACKNESS OF A COFFIN, OF SCREAMING WITH THE SUDDEN MIND SHATTERING KNOWLEDGE THAT...
THE DEAD LIVE

TUESDAY: I MUST SET IT ALL DOWN. SITTING HERE WITH THE RAIN TAPPING SKELETON FINGERS ON MY WINDOW. THIS PLACE IS STRANGE. I FELT IT TONIGHT WHEN I SAW CARL HEATH AGAIN AFTER SIX YEARS.
ABEL, SINCE WE WERE AT THE UNIVERSITY, I'VE LEARNED FEAR!
YOU CAME, ABEL! I'M GRATEFUL!
YOU WROTE THAT YOU WERE IN TROUBLE. CARL, YOU'VE CHANGED WHY, YOU'RE TREMBLING!
AN ANCIENT SERVANT TOOK MY BAGS - AS I FOLLOWED CARL TO A SHADOWY SITTING ROOM.
SHE WAS PALE WHITE - SHE SMILED AND WENT OUT. CARL AND I WERE ALONE.
YOU'VE NEVER MET MY SISTER, HAVE YOU, ABEL? YOU'VE HEARD ME SPEAK OF HER. ANGELA, THIS IS ABEL BARTON!
CARL, IT'S GOOD TO SEE YOU AGAIN! IT'S BEEN A LONG TIME. BUT YOU AND YOUR SISTER BOTH SEEM ILL... AND YOU SPOKE OF BEING AFRAID... AFRAID OF WHAT?
OF... DESTINY, MY FRIEND!
ANGELA AND I ARE ILL, AS MY FAMILY HAS BEEN ILL FOR TWO CENTURIES! WE FADE, DIE... BUT SOMETIMES... WE AREN'T TRULY DEAD!
YOU'RE TALKING RIDDLES!
NO, ABEL, THERE HAVE BEEN MEMBERS OF MY FAMILY WHO WERE BURIED... BEFORE THEY WERE DEAD!

YOU TOLD ME THAT YEARS AGO! WHAT OF IT? I'VE HEARD OF SUCH CASES... EPILEPSY SOMETIMES GIVES THE APPEARANCE OF DEATH!
NOT EPILEPSY! THE MEDICAL WORLD HAS NO NAME OR CURE FOR IT! THAT'S WHY I'M AFRAID!
BUT SURELY YOUR DOCTOR KNOWS IF YOU'RE NEAR DEATH! WHY THIS SUDDEN PANIC? YOU'VE KNOWN ABOUT YOUR FAMILY ALL YOUR LIFE!
SOMETIMES FEAR GROWS SLOWLY! MY DOCTOR IS A PILL PUSHER...
CARL WAS IN A BAD WAY... I FOLLOWE HIM OUT OF THE HOUSE THROUGH A DANK DARK GROVE INTO THE FIELDS BEYOND.
A MAUSOLEUM! HERE?
THIS IS OUR FAMILY BURIAL GROUND.. THIS IS WHERE I WILL BE PLACED IF I DIE! COME ALONG, ABEL!
MY CASKET, ABEL!
THAT CHAIN LEADS TO THE HOUSE... TO MY ROOM... TO AN ALARM... A BELL TO MY BEDSIDE! NOW DO YOU UNDERSTAND?
IF I SEEM TO BE DEAD I WILL BE BURIED HERE! BUT IF I STILL LIVE... IF I WAKEN... I CAN SIGNAL BEFORE IT'S TOO LATE! BUT SOMEONE MUST BE IN MY ROOM! THE SIGNAL MUST BE HEARD!
SO YOU'VE CHOSEN ME! WHY, EVEN IF ALL THIS SHOULD HAPPEN... ANGELA WOULD HEAR...

I HAVE TO SPARE HER THAT SHOCK IF I CAN! SHE'S WEAK, ABEL, THERE'S DEATH IN MY HOUSE! I FEEL IT! STAY UNTIL I DIE! THEN STAY ON.. A WEEK! LIVE IN MY ROOM... AFTER I DIE!
I AGREED! BUT AFTERWARDS IT SEEMED INSANE! I PACED RESTLESSLY, IMPATIENT.
MISTER BARTON, MAY I SPEAK TO YOU?
YOU STARTLED ME! WH-WHO ARE YOU?
DR. EVERS! I STOP BY EVERY NIGHT! CARL HAS TOLD ME YOU'RE STAYING HERE!
YOU MUST KNOW ABOUT THE CHAIN.. COFFIN... WHAT DOES IT ALL MEAN?
CARL IS SUFFERING FROM A DELUSION.. HE IS NO CLOSER TO DEATH THAN YOU ARE! BUT HE'S BROODED OVER HIS FAMILY HISTORY FOR SO LONG THAT HE REALLY BELIEVES HE MAY DIE ANY MOMENT!
CAN IT BE, DOCTOR, THAT CARL IS MORE AFRAID OF STAYING ALIVE!?
WEDNESDAY— CARL REFUSED THE PILLS! AND TONIGHT I REALIZED THERE IS LITTLE I CAN DO FOR ANGELA!
CARL NEEDS REST, BUT HE REFUSES MEDICATION! THESE ARE SLEEPING PILLS! TRY TO GET HIM TO TAKE ONE... AND TALK TO ANGELA... SPEND SOME TIME WITH HER!
I KNOW THERE HAVE BEEN CASES OF PREMATURE BURIAL IN HIS FAMILY... BUT HE IS PERFECTLY HEALTHY! HIS FIRST CONCERN SHOULD BE ANGELA! HIS FEARS HAVE INFECTED HER, TOO!
I'LL DO MY BEST!
LEAVE HERE? BUT THIS IS MY HOME! WE WILL NEVER LEAVE! WE BELONG HERE!

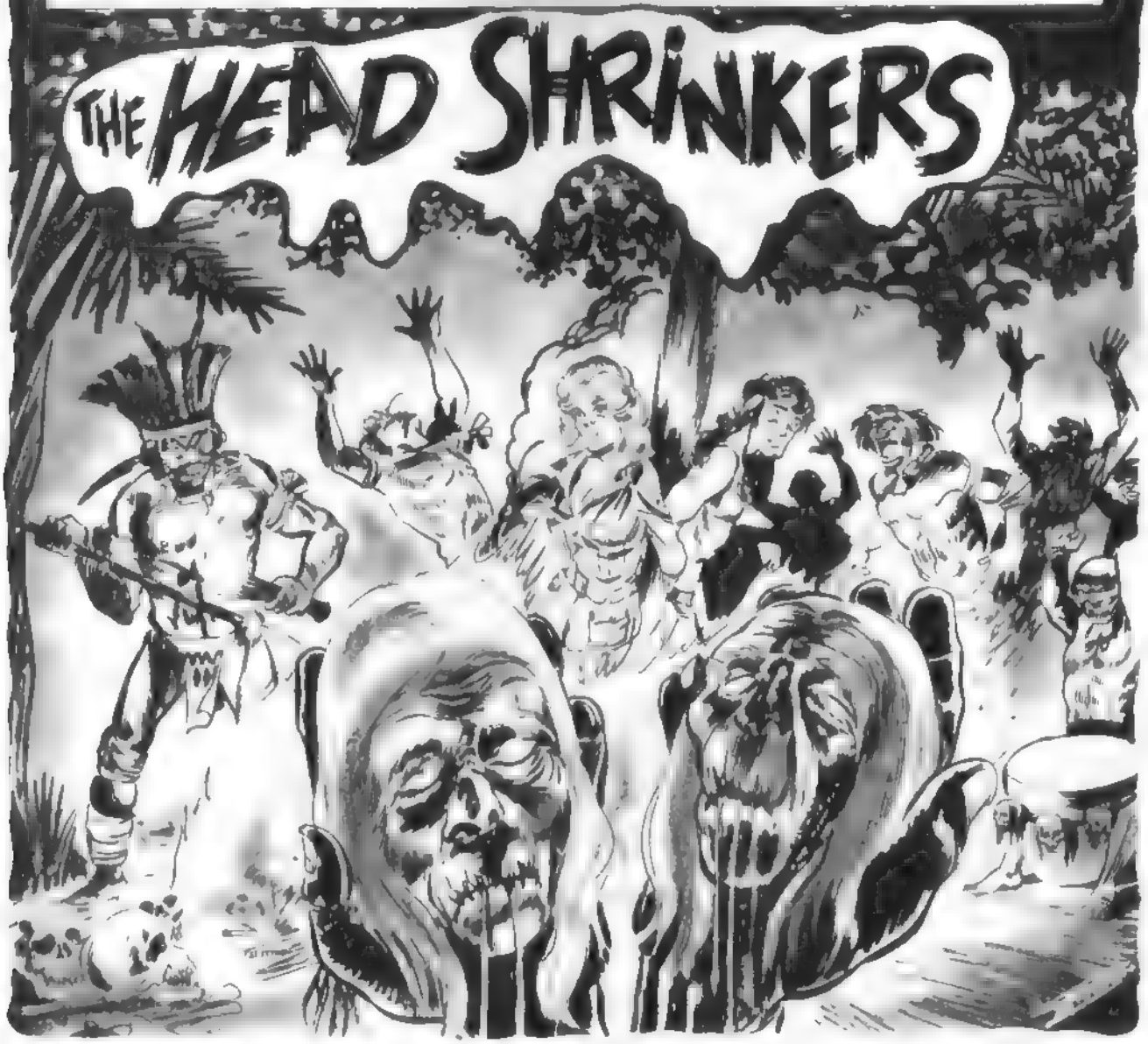
THE PAST IS DUST! YOU MUSTN'T LET CARLS WILD IDEAS INFLUENCE YOU LIKE THIS!
MUSTN'T? WE HAVE THE SAME BLOOD, CARL AND I... AND THE SAME BELIEF THAT WHAT MUST BE... WILL BE!
GO AWAY, ABEL, GO BEFORE THE THINGS THAT HANG OVER US ENGULF YOU TOO!
THURSDAY. CARL KEEPS TO HIS ROOM... I TRIED AGAIN TO CONVINCE ANGELA...
THE MOONLIGHT BECOMES YOU, ANGELA! YOUR SKIN GLOWS LIKE ALABASTER
ALABASTER, THAT'S WHAT THEY MAKE URNS OF... THE URNS THAT HOLD THE ASHES OF THE DEAD!
DEATH! IS THAT ALL YOU CAN THINK OF? YOU SHOULD BE OUT DANCING, LAUGHING WITH YOUR BEAU, NOT BROODING IN THIS MORBID PLACE!
I DO HAVE A BEAU, ABEL! HE WAITS IN THE DARKNESS, A LOVER WHO'S FLESH IS COLD, WHO'S KISS IS ICY!
YOU THINK US MAD, DON'T YOU? BUT WE KNOW... OUR FAMILY LINE IS CURSED! NONE OF US LIVES TO AN OLD AGE!
NONSENSE! THIS ILLNESS YOU SPEAK OF IS ONLY IMMAG NATION! ANGELA, LISTEN TO ME...
FRIDAY. STILL SHE WOULDN'T LISTEN... WAIT, SOMEONE IS AT THE DOOR!
CARL! WHAT IS IT?
ANGELA! IT'S ANGELA! COME AND SEE!
SHE WAS LYING ON THE FLOOR OF HER ROOM WHEN WE GOT THERE!
IT MUST HAVE HIT SUDDENLY... WHATEVER IT WAS... SHE'S GONE! CARL, I'M SORRY!

GONE? GONE! LOOK AT HER BEAUTIFUL FACE...TOO BEAUTIFUL TO DIE! TOO LOVELY FOR LIFELESS DUST!
HER PULSE AND HEARTBEAT HAVE STOPPED, CARL! SHE'S DEAD!
BUT HOW DO WE KNOW? WHO KNOWS HOW FAR THE SOUL TRAVELS WHEN IT LEAVES THE BODY?
CARL, STOP IT! HYSTERICS WON'T HELP! I'LL CALL DR. EVERS, HE'LL BE ABLE TO TELL FOR CERTAIN!
THE DOCTOR CAME AND MADE EVERY TEST! BUT CARL STILL WILL NOT BELIEVE! HE TOOK ME TO THE MAUSOLEUM AGAIN!
SHE MUST BE PLACED HERE IN THE CASKET I PREPARED FOR MYSELF! IF SHE STILL LIVES, I'LL KNOW!
OF COURSE, CARL...IF YOU WANT IT LIKE THAT...
SATURDAY: ANGELA WAS PLACED IN THE BRONZE CASKET TODAY! BUT NOW IT IS CARL THAT WORRIES ME!
CARL, YOU MUST GO TO BED! YOU NEED REST!
NO, I MUST STAY AWAKE! THAT BELL...IF IT RINGS, THERE WILL BE TIME TO TAKE HER FROM THE CASKET!
SUNDAY: MY BEDROOM WINDOW LOOKS ACROSS A COURT INTO CARL'S WINDOW! I SAW HIM PACING ALL LAST NIGHT!
CARL, YOU'VE GOT TO GET SOME SLEEP!
MONDAY: FINALLY CARL SLEPT... LAST NIGHT... ALL NIGHT! I'M GOING TO HIS ROOM TO WAKEN HIM!
CARL! CARL! WAKE UP! IT'S MORNING!
MORNING...ABEL! I SLEPT, BUT I DREAMED!
I DREAMED THAT ANGELA STILL LIVED! I HEARD THE BELL AND I COULDN'T MOVE! IT WAS AS IF GREAT WEIGHTS WERE PRESSING ME DOWN!
IT WAS A DREAM, CARL, YOU KNOW THAT!

NO! NO, IT WAS NOT A DREAM! IT WAS REAL!
CARL, WHERE ARE YOU GOING?
TO THE CASKET, TO ANGELA!
LATER: THE HORROR OF IT! WE WENT TO THE MAUSOLEUM AND IT WAS NOT A DREAM.. NOT NOW.. OR BEFORE!
THE SHROUD LAY IN TATTERS, HER FACE SCRATCHED AND MANGLED..AS IF SHE HAD TORN HER FLESH IN AGONY OF TERROR! HOW CAN I DESCRIBE IT!?
I KNEW IT! I KNEW IT! IT WASN'T A DREAM! I HEARD THE BELL, BUT I COULDN'T MOVE! SHE WAS PLACED IN THE CASKET ALIVE, ALIVE!
NO...THERE...THERE MUST BE SOME OTHER EXPLANATION! THERE MUST BE!
BUT THERE ISN'T! THEY CAME, THE POLICE, THE DOCTOR! BUT THERE IS NO OTHER EXPLANATION!
POOR... LITTLE THING! EVERY TEST INDICATED THAT SHE WAS DEAD! BUT SHE WASN'T! SHE CAME BACK TO LIFE... AND DIED OF FEAR... AND HER STRUGGLES! BARTON, DO WHAT YOU CAN FOR CARL! WE CAN AT LEAST SAVE HIS SANITY!
SAVE CARL'S SANITY? I WISH I COULD LAUGH! WHO WILL SAVE MY SANITY? WHO CAN I TALK TO ..TO EASE MY SOUL!
HOW CAN I FORGET THE SLEEPING PILL I PUT IN CARL'S DRINKING WATER LAST NIGHT! THE PILL THAT KEPT HIM CHAINED TO HIS BED... WHILE ANGELA STRUGGLED AND DIED IN HER TOMB!
THE END

PEOPLE SPEAK ABOUT THE HORROR OF VAMPIRES....OF WEREWOLVES....OF ASSORTED OCCULT PHENOMENA. BUT THERE IS NOTHING SO BLOOD-CURDLING, SO TERRIFYING AS THE HORROR OF REVENGE!!....

THE HEAD SHRINKERS



I'VE CALLED THE GENTLEMAN WITH TREASURE ON THE BRAIN, CLARK TRASK. HE WAS WILLIAMS' ASSOCIATE, AND THE MAN WITH THE CASH. THE GIRL IS WILLIAMS' DAUGHTER, GINNY AND MY FIANCE!

CLARK...I WARN YOU! NO VIOLENCE OR OUTWARD SEARCH FOR GOLD ON THIS TRIP!

MAJOR WILLIAMS, I'M AFRAID YOU CAN'T DEMAND *ANYTHING!* REMEMBER WHO FINANCES YOUR TRIPS!

THE ARROGANT DEVIL! IF GINNY AND HER FATHER WEREN'T SO MUCH IN DEBT TO HIM FOR HIS BACKING, I'D THRASH HIM TO WITHIN AN INCH OF HIS LIFE!

THAT'S HOW IT STARTED. THE WEEKS FLEW AFTER THAT AND WE WERE SOON BREATHING THE THICK HORRID AIR OF THE TROPICS!

JUAN... MALA NEETA O'CHEN BATA! NO KILL HERE!

WHAT'S HE SAYING?

HE'S EXPLAINING THAT WE'VE COME TO THE HEAD-HUNTERS COUNTRY! FROM NOW ON NO SHOOTING!

BUT THEN A STROKE OF BAD LUCK TORE OUT OF THE JUNGLE UNDERBRUSH...

WHAT A MEAL HE'S GOING TO MAKE FOR MY FIRE!

NO! TRASK! DON'T!!

SHUT UP, STEVENS! I DON'T HAVE TO ANSWER TO YOU OR ANYONE!

WE STOOD THERE PARALYZED AS THE SHOT RANG OUT!

IT'S DEAD, ALL RIGHT! TRASK, YOU DID THIS DELIBERATELY!

OH.... HOW COULD YOU!

SIMPLY BECAUSE I REFUSE TO BE DICTATED TO!

BUT NO SOONER WERE THOSE WORDS OUT OF HIS MOUTH WHEN THE JUNGLE SEEMED TO RUSTLE A WARNING...

WHAT'S THAT?

THEN THE JUNGLE BECAME A LAUNCHER FOR DEATH!

THE WORLD STOPPED MOVING FOR US AS WE WAITED...THEN THE HORROR BURST FORTH!

I-I'LL KILL THEM!

PUT DOWN YOUR RIFLE, TRASK! THEY SPARED US FOR SOME REASON!

BATAA-YAA.... NAOO-TACHA!

HE WANTS US TO COME WITH HIM TO HIS VILLAGE! WE HAVE NO CHOICE!

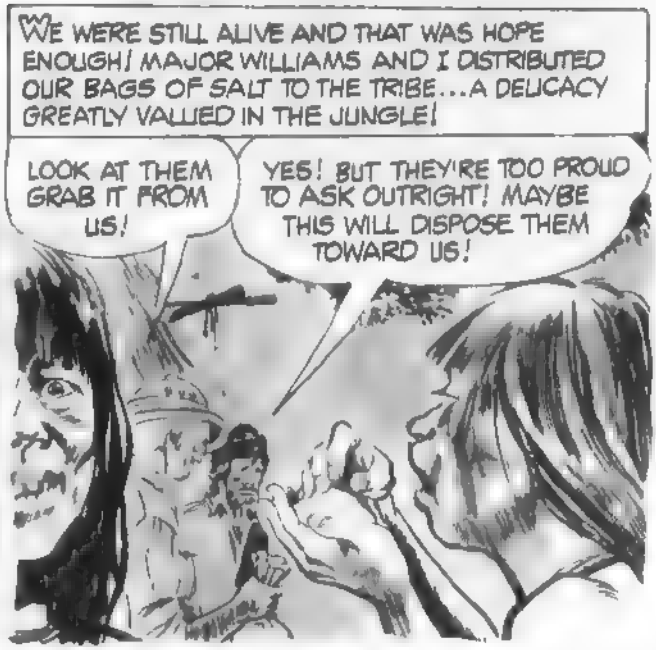
FOR WHAT SEEMED LIKE HOURS WE WERE PULLED AND PUSHED INTO THE HEADHUNTERS' VILLAGE....A SIGHT BEYOND COMPARE! IT WAS A GIANT TREASURE!

WHY HAVE YOU TRESPASSED OUR GROUNDS, WHITE MAN?

HE SPEAKS *ENGLISH!*

YES! I SPEAK ENGLISH! YOU HAVE KILLED ONE OF OUR GODS! YOU HAVE VIOLATED OUR *TABU*...AND THIS IS WHAT HAPPENS TO VIOLATORS!

OUR KING MUST DECIDE WHAT IS TO BE DONE WITH YOU!
WHICH MEANS WE WON'T DIE! THEY'D HAVE KILLED US LONG AGO! LOOK AT THAT GOLD IDOL! IT'S WORTH A FORTUNE!


WE WERE STILL ALIVE AND THAT WAS HOPE ENOUGH! MAJOR WILLIAMS AND I DISTRIBUTED OUR BAGS OF SALT TO THE TRIBE...A DELICACY GREATLY VALUED IN THE JUNGLE!
LOOK AT THEM GRAB IT FROM US!
YES! BUT THEY'RE TOO PROUD TO ASK OUTRIGHT! MAYBE THIS WILL DISPOSE THEM TOWARD US!

BUT WHATEVER KINDNESS THEY MIGHT HAVE FELT FOR US WAS SHATTERED FOREVER THAT HORRIBLE NIGHT. WE FROZE AS WILD SHRIEKS OF TERROR MOVED CLOSER TO OUR HUT!
OH, VAN...WHAT'S HAPPENED?

THEY TORE INTO THE HUT, AND BEFORE WE KNEW WHAT WAS HAPPENING...
DIE! AIEEEEE!

OH NO...NO! FATHER!
AIEEEEE!

THE KING HOLDS MY SPEAR-HAND! ONE OF YOUR NUMBER HAS KILLED HIS SON, OUR YOUNG KING-TO-BE! HE HAS ALSO STOLEN OUR VILLAGE GOD! FOR THAT YOU SHALL DIE HORRIBLY!
NO! NO!
EASY, DARLING, EASY!

THEY TIED US TO STAKES... THEY LIT A FIRE FOR SLOW TORTURE! WE KNEW IT WAS TRASK WHO HAD LOOTED, KILLED AND LEFT US TO OUR FATES.

BUT ALL THAT WAS IN THE PAST...NOW WE JUST CLUNG TO OUR LAST MOMENTS...

AEEEEEE!!!! THEY SPEAK OUT! HA, HA!

THEN SUDDENLY THE DRUMS STOPPED...

UGH... AMO-POA AMPA!

OUR KING ORDERS YOU FREED! HE SAY YOU CANNOT BE PUNISHED FOR A CRIME YOU DID NOT DO!

YOU DON'T QUESTION A MIRACLE....YOU ACCEPT IT AND SQUEEZE EVERY OUNCE OF HOPE OUT OF IT...

THANKS! I'D BE GLAD TO DO THE SAME FOR YOU SOME DAY!

SO BEGAN THE JOURNEY BACK TO CIVILIZATION--
--HOW LONG WE TRAVELED I SHALL NEVER KNOW.. BUT AT LAST WE SIGHTED OUR BOAT!!

GO!

YOU CAN BET YOUR LIFE WE WILL!

WE MANAGED TO GET ON THE DECK OF THE DIRTY STEAMER AND TOOK A LAST LOOK AT THE HORRID SHORE...

IT'S BEEN A NIGHTMARE!

DON'T THINK ABOUT IT DARLING! I JUST WONDER WHY THEY LET *US* FREE!

THEN, JUST AS WE WERE ABOUT TO TURN AWAY, A WARRIOR THREW A SMALL OBJECT AT OUR FEET...

GOOD LORD!

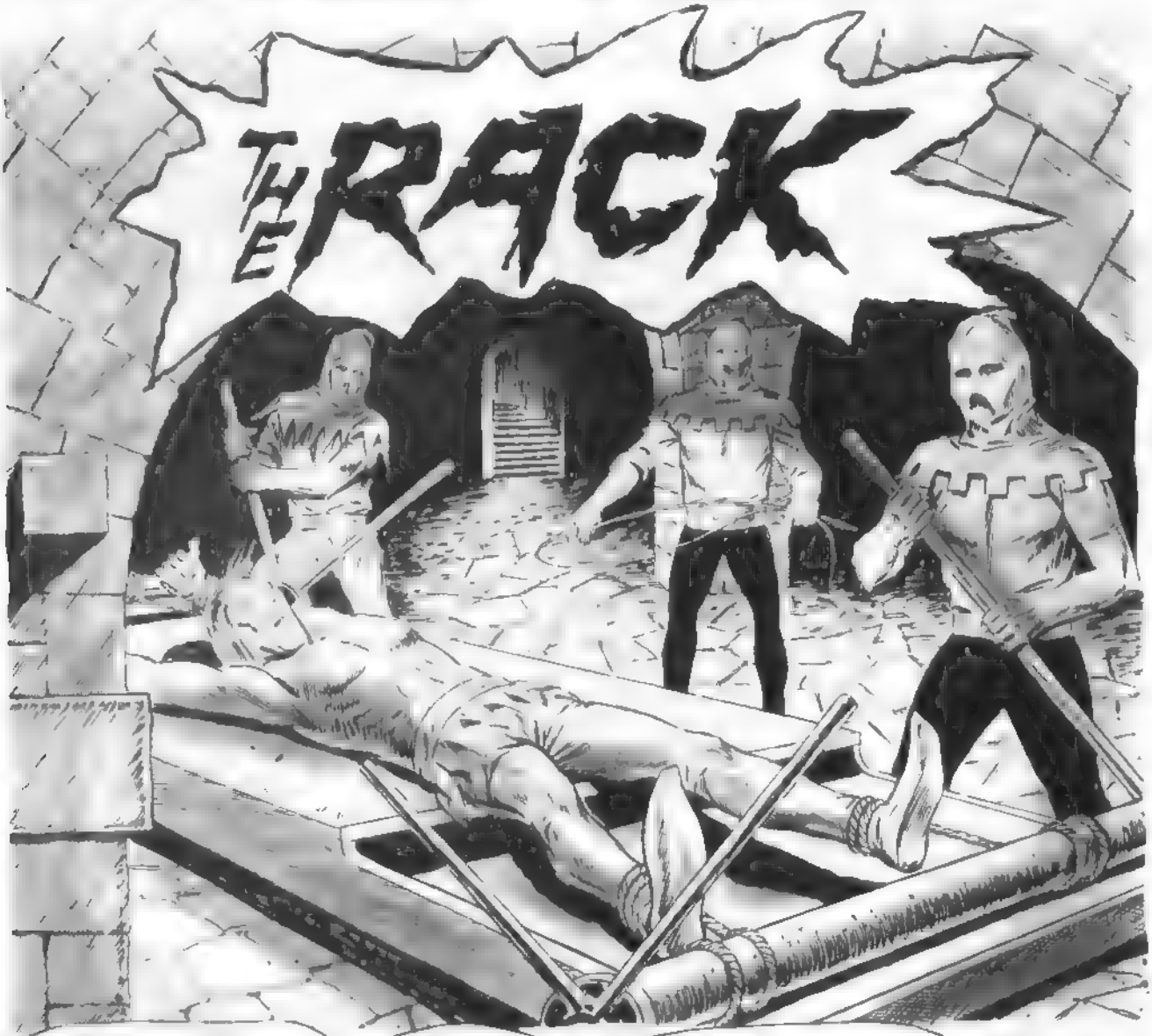
EEEEEEEEEE!

NOW I KNEW WHY WE HAD BEEN SPARED. JUNGLE JUSTICE IS STRANGE....BUT EXACT! FOR THERE WAS CLARK TRASK'S SHRUNKEN HEAD IN ALL ITS ARROGANT, LEERING EVIL...

THE END

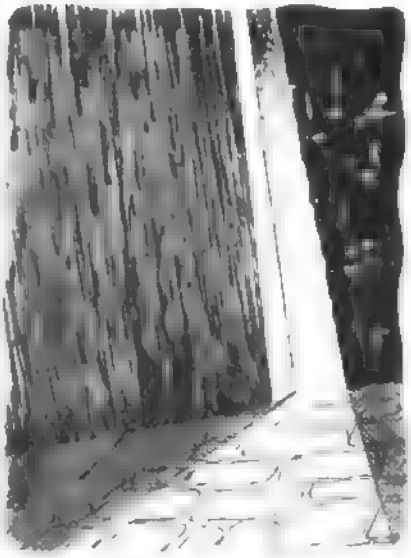
THE TIME... ANCIENT ENGLAND DURING THE FOURTEENTH CENTURY. THE PLACE... A CASTLE SOMEWHERE NEAR LONDON. THE REASON ---

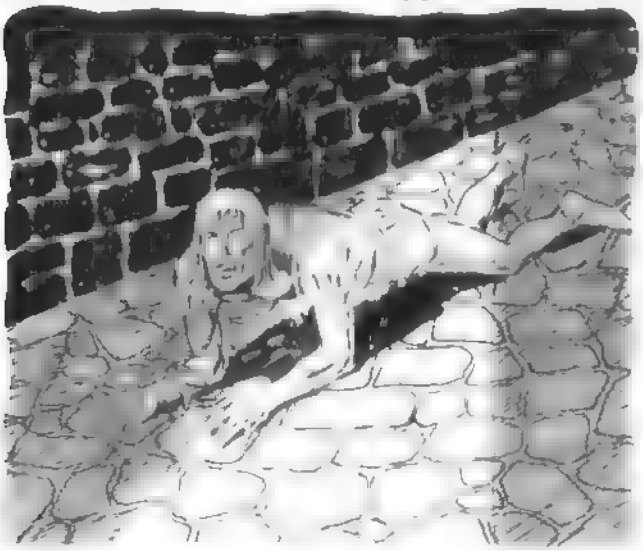
THE RACK



YOU HEARD HIM! THEY'LL BE BACK... BACK TO TORTURE YOU!

CAN'T... TALK... GOT... TO ESCAPE...


LOOK... THE DOOR! THEY FORGOT TO CLOSE IT... THERE'S YOUR ESCAPE!


C'MON, YOU CAN MAKE IT! ANYTHING IS BETTER THAN MORE... TORTURE! TRY-- TRY-- TRY!

DON'T STOP NOW... YOU'VE MADE IT! DON'T STOP!

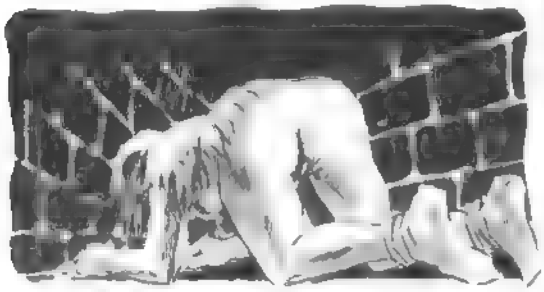
GO AHEAD... OPEN IT! YOU'VE GOT NOTHING TO LOSE... THEY'LL ONLY TORTURE YOU IF YOU STAY IN THE CELL!

THAT'S IT! BUT DON'T STOP NOW... KEEP GOING... KEEP GOING!

THAT'S WHERE YOU HAVE TO GO... ANY PLACE BUT THE **TORTURE** CHAMBER!

THE DOOR! THAT'S WHERE YOU'VE GOT TO GO... THAT'S WHERE **FREEDOM** LIES...

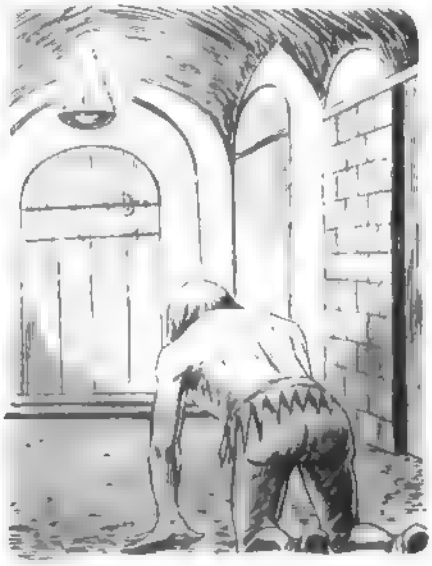
WHAT'S THAT? SOMEONE'S COMING! **HIDE!** DON'T LET THEM FIND YOU NOW! YOU'VE COME TO FAR NOW...



DON'T BREATHE! THEY DIDN'T SEE YOU... HAVE FAITH.. **HAVE FAITH!**

YOU MADE IT... YOU MADE IT! THEY DIDN'T SEE YOU! BUT YOU CAN'T STAY HERE... THE DOOR.. DON'T FORGET THE DOOR... TO **FREEDOM!**

THAT'S IT... NOT TOO MUCH FURTHER NOW.. JUST A LITTLE BIT MORE...



THEY'RE COMING BACK! **HIDE!** YOU'VE GOT TO HIDE! DON'T LET THEM CATCH YOU NOW! NOT WHEN **FREEDOM** IS SO CLOSE!

BUT YOU HAVE BEEN TORTURED... MAYBE NOT BY MACHINES, BUT BY SOMETHING FAR MORE POWERFUL... YOUR OWN MIND!

The End

FACTS FOR GHOULS

I'M JUST RETURNING FROM THE APOTHECARY, WHERE I LEARNED QUITE A BIT ABOUT CURES! --YOU THERE! STOP SNICKERING! NOW LISTEN! ...DID YOU KNOW THAT---

IRISH HEALING STONES

WORK WONDERS FOR MINOR ACHES AND PAINS ANYWHERE IN THE WORLD EXCEPT- *ENGLAND!*

(AND THAT AINT BLARNEY!)

NOT TOO LONG AGO, *A GLASS CANE* HUNG FROM A CEILING, PROTECTED ANY HOUSE FROM ILLNESS and BAD LUCK! FAILURE TO CLEAN THE ROD EACH DAY, RESULTED IN DISEASE, BAD LUCK and EVEN DEATH! *(HEY, DID YOU CLEAN YOUR ROD TODAY?.... HMM?)*

--AN OLD WIVES CURE FOR PAINFUL ARTHRITIS WAS TO RUB A GOLD WATCH OVER THE SWOLLEN AREA, ... *AND THE PAIN STOPPED!* **TODAY**, DOCTORS GIVE ARTHRITIS PATIENTS GOLD INJECTIONS TO STOP THE PAIN!

(P.S. NEVER MENTION THIS TO A DOCTOR, HE'LL SEND YOU TO A HEAD SHRINKER.. .... *A JIVARO EXPERT!*)

NOW YOU CAN GET THESE BACK ISSUES OF THE MONSTER TIMES FOR HALF PRICE! 8 ISSUES FOR ONLY $5.00

TMT #14 WICKED WOLFMAN. Features a filmbook and color centerfold of **WOLFMAN**, article on comic's chauvinist pig, **THE PHANTOM**, **GODZILLA**, "Behind the Scenes at **SILENT RUNNING**," review of **SCIENCE FICTION FILM**, **CONQUEST OF THE PLANET OF THE APES**, and an interview with Peter Cushing.

TMT#15 VALLEY OF GWANGI. Filmbook and centerfold on **THE VALLEY OF GWANGI**, an interview with Alfred Hitchcock, "Vampires in the Comics," preview of **BLACKULA**, **THE PLANT MONSTERS**, review of HPL magazine, Godzilla's own column, some real monsters and **CHILDREN SHOULDN'T PLAY WITH DEAD THINGS**.

TMT #16, GODZILLA FOR PRESIDENT! Our spectacular issue breaking the story that Godzilla is running for president, with a color centerfold to match. Also included are articles on **MIGHTY JOE YOUNG**, **COUNT YORGA** and still more **PLANT MONSTERS**. An interview with Vincent Price, and "Comics Go To College."

TMT #17, SUPER SCIENCE FICTION. Filmbook and color centerfold of **FORBIDDEN PLANET**, review of **FLASH GORDON HERITAGE**, **THE MYSTERIANS**, behind the scenes at the latest apes movie, SF TV Guide, preview of **ASYLUM**, interview with Rod Serling and review of the s-f WORLD-CON.

TMT #18, PIEDRAS BLANCAS MONSTER. Filmbook and color centerfold on the classic (?) **MONSTER OF PIEDRAS BLANCAS**, Willis O'Brien's missing monsters, preview of **DRACULA A.D. 1972**, "When Monsters Ruled The Comics," Perry Rhodan of Germany, First Annual Monster Poll and King Kong comics.

TMT #19, TERRIFYING TARANTULA. Filmbook and color centerfold on **TARANTULA**, articles on Dr. Death and Dr Shock, the return of E.C. comics, "Hercules in the Comics," Late Film Roundup, review of some recent monster movie campaigns, and some really repulsive comics.

TMT #21, THE TOTAL FRANKENSTEIN. Filmbook and color centerfold on 1931's **FRANKENSTEIN**, a complete **FRANKENSTEIN** filmography, the real Castle Frankenstein, "The Decline of Frankenstein," interview with Glen (Frankenstein) Strange, "Frankenstein in the Comics," and a color centerfold with all the **FRANKENSTEINS** of the movies.

TMT# 22, GREEN SLIME GLUES. Filmbook on **GREEN SLIME**, preview on **THE VAULT OF HORROR**, Godzilla vs. Ghidrah, **GENESIS II**, article on New York's **CREEP**, results of the Monster Poll, review of the **KLINE PORTFOLIO**, and a trip to the Amicus Studios. Also TMT's exclusive **GET MONSTERWORE**. Seeing is believing!

TMT #23, GADZOOKS, GODZILLA. A special 40-page magazine issue of TMT devoted to **GODZILLA** and his friends. Including a **GODZILLA** filmbook, four color **GODZILLA** posters, the friends of **GODZILLA**, Tom Sutton's super comic strip RAT! and more on the Greatest Beast in the World, Godzilla.

TMT #24, REGAL RODAN. Filmbook on **RODAN** with a free color centerfold of same. Also Basil Wolverton comics' **THEATRE OF BLOOD**, Review of "History of Comics," Vol. 2, the **LAST OF THE PLANET OF THE APES** and much more in our special BILL OF RIGHTS issue.

TMT #25, THE FANTASTIC FLY. Leading off with a double filmbook on **THE FLY** and **THE RETURN OF THE FLY** and a Fly centerfold. Also articles about **CAPT. MARVEL**'s creator, C.C. Beck and **BROOM HILDA**'s Russell Myers. Also, Ladies and their Monsters and **WERE-WOLVES ON WHEELS**. A fantastic mixed bag issue.

TMT #27, VAMPIRES' PARADE. Our special all-vampire issue, featuring Forgotten Vampire Classics of the Screen, an article on The Decline and Fall of Bela Lugosi, a Neal Adams vampire centerfold, review of **DREAM OF DRACULA** and the long-awaited Jess Franco **COUNT DRACULA**. Also Esteban Maroto article.

TMT #28, HUNCHBACK SPECIAL. A special Lon Chaney/Hunchback issue with centerfold puppet of the Hunchback, an article and illustrations on Chaney's make-up technique. Also, **PLASTIC MAN**, Willis O'Brien's **BLACK SCORPIO**, new Hammer releases and the **WAX MUSEUM**.

TMT #29, ABOMINABLE SNOWMAN. Filmbook on the Universal Film's classic **HOUSE OF FRANKENSTEIN**, E.C. comics, television cartoon guide, two **ABOMINABLE SNOWMAN** articles, Glenn Strange memorial, **SINBAD'S GOLDEN VOYAGE**. Also **FROM HELL IT CAME** and **DEATH IS A WAY OF LIFE**.

TMT #30, SHOCK & SCHLOCK SPECIAL. All-Worst issue, with filmbook on **THE HORROR OF PARTY BEACH**, 50 Worst Horror Films Ever Made, the World's Worst Comics, and a portrait of low-budget filmmaker Ray Dennis Steckler. Also included: Teenage Monster Movies of the 50s, an interview with schlock filmmaker William Grefe, Hugo Headstone strip, the Inferior Five and a preview of **SCHLOCK**, monster movie satire.

TMT #31, MAURADING MARTIAN ISSUE. Our all-Martian issue, including a super filmbook and centerfold of **WAR OF THE WORLDS**. Also includes an article and comic strip on **INVADERS FROM MARS**, Martians in the Comics and many other Martian features.

TMT #32, BEAST FROM 20,000 FATHOMS. That roaring rhedosaurus heads a creature cast that includes **MARVEL'S MIGHTIEST MONSTERS**, **MEXICAN MONSTERS** and **THE WEREWOLF OF WASHINGTON**. Also Gene Roddenberry's **QUESTOR** series and a profile of the late Kung Fu star, Bruce Lee.

TMT #34, FEMALE FIEMDS AND SWAMP MEN. Filmbook on **THE TIME MACHINE**, a ghastly look at the rise of horror in underground comix, Star Trek Convention report, interview with William Shatner, the swamp creatures that ooze from within the comicbook world, Zardoz. The terrifying history of lady monsters in the horror film, preview of the film **MADHOUSE** and more.

TMT #35, RETURN OF GODZILLA. Special issue on Japanese monsters with a healthy hug for the greatest of them...**GODZILLA**. Part two of the Ladies of Fright is here. Learn how the great makeup men in the monster world work in our behind-the-scenes report on the masters of makeup. Preview of "Chosen Survivors," Supernatural Superheroes and more.

TMT #36, CURSE OF THE WEREWOLF. Super Filmbook on **CURSE OF THE WEREWOLF**, an exclusive interview with Leonard Nimoy in **SPOCK SPEAKS!**, Robots in the Cinema, Attack of The Bubble Gum Martians, plus a horrific look at The Mutations, and much more!

TMT #37, GAMMERA THE INVINCIBLE. In his own words, **GAMMERA** reveals all the agony and ecstasy of his life, Flash Gordon versus Flash Gordon, Planet of the Apes Invade TV!, The Spectre Returns, TMT Lecture Series and more!

TMT #38, FILM GIANTS ISSUE. All those oversized titans of terror in one super colossal article, plus an in-depth review of Marvel's black and white Conan books, super interview about the king of ooze—**THE BLOB**, confessions of a makeup master, The Mad Ghoul, filmbook on **THE GOLDEN VOYAGE OF SINBAD**, and more!

TMT #39, A Special Poster-Sized Newspaper with 12 GIANT POSTERS of The World's Greatest Monsters: **KING KONG**, **GODZILLA**, **THE FRANKENSTEIN MONSTER**, 7 more!

TMT# 40, phantom of the opera. Special filmbook on **SON OF KONG**, Godzilas from outer space, Fay Wray reminisces about King Kong, Doctor Spektor & the monsters, indepth look at the special effects of Jim Danforth, parade of horrors in "Phantom(s) of the Op-era(s)," PLUS Monster Scene, Teletype, Hugo Headstone, Trek Talk and more!

TMT# 41, IT! THE TERROR FROM BEYOND SPACE. Leads off another despairing issue of **TMT**. You'll find a study of **SIX VERSIONS OF FRANKENSTEIN**, Werewolfs in the Comics, **YOUNG FRANKENSTEIN**. Other frightening features includes Joel Lyman's **FIEND** and **VAMPYR** and a report on ancient mummy-making.

TMT #42, GODZILLA VS. THE THING! Special for Japanese monster-fans, **TRUE SCREAM CONFESSION**, a Toho terror review. Also, **THE INCREDIBLE SHRINKING MAN**, **BLOOD FEAST**, **WIZARD OF GORE**, and a look at Monster Movie Comics.

TMT #43, ALL-DEMON ISSUE. Featuring a survey of Satans in The Cinema, including **THE DUNWICH HORRORS**, **DIE, MONSTER, DIE** and **CURSE OF THE DEMON**. Also Witchcraft Throughout The Ages, **THE EXORCIST** and **CAPTAIN KIRK, EXORCIST**.

Yes, you heard right! NOW, as a special "Thank You" to all of our readers, we here at TMT have decided to sell you BACK ISSUES for HALF PRICE! Unfortunately, we must insist that you order 8 back issues at one time, otherwise the workload would be too great for us to handle. Also remember that not all back issues are available for this offer, so be sure to order ONLY THOSE ISSUES LISTED.

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ISSUES

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WEIRD FACTS
NOW, WHAT MAKES YOU DELIGHTFUL GHOULISH FIENDS THINK I'M PUTTING YOU ON?---DID YOU KNOW THAT UNTIL RECENT TIMES, NO MAN WITH THE NAME OF GEORGE, HAD EVER BEEN HANGED?---THINK I'M SPOOFING YOU?--THEN, CHECK THE RECORD!--AND SPEAKING OF RECORDS, HERE ARE SOME RECIPES TAKEN FROM AN APOTHECARY'S PERSCRIPTION BOOK!
HUMAN SKULLS
REDUCED TO POWDER and MIXED WITH RED WINE WERE RECOMMENDED FOR THE CURING OF EPILEPSY and DYSENTERY. ... DRINK,--ANYONE?
COFFIN RINGS
WHEN DUG OUT OF A GRAVE ... WILL CURE RHEUMATISM! ... DO YOUR BONES HURT? --HMMMM?
IF ... A FRUIT TREE BLOOMS and FRUITS TWICE IN A SEASON, A MEMBER OF THE FAMILY OWNING THE TREE, WILL DIE BEFORE THE YEAR IS OUT!
.... BE MY GUEST! ENJOY! ENJOY! TILL NEXT WE MEET.